



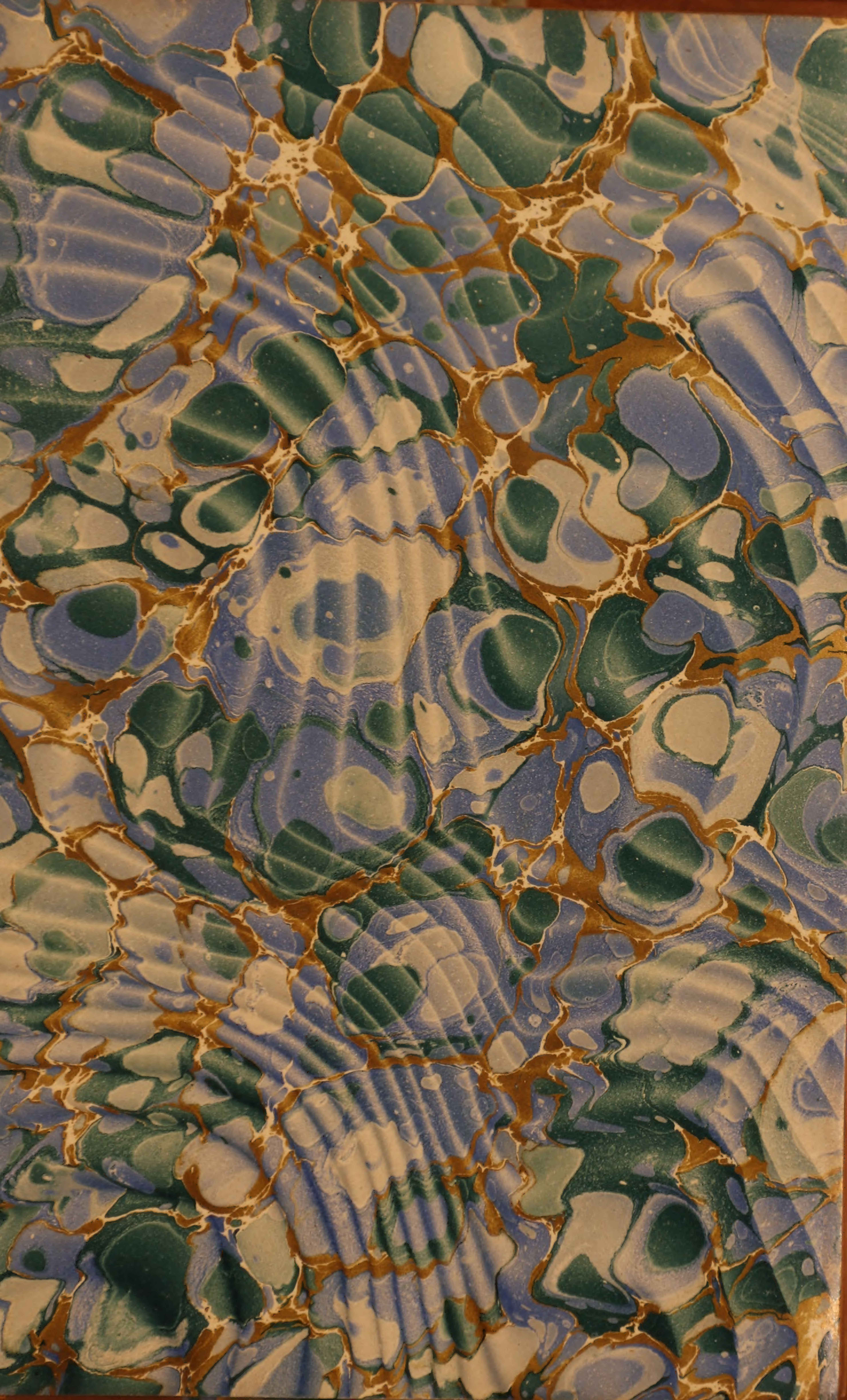
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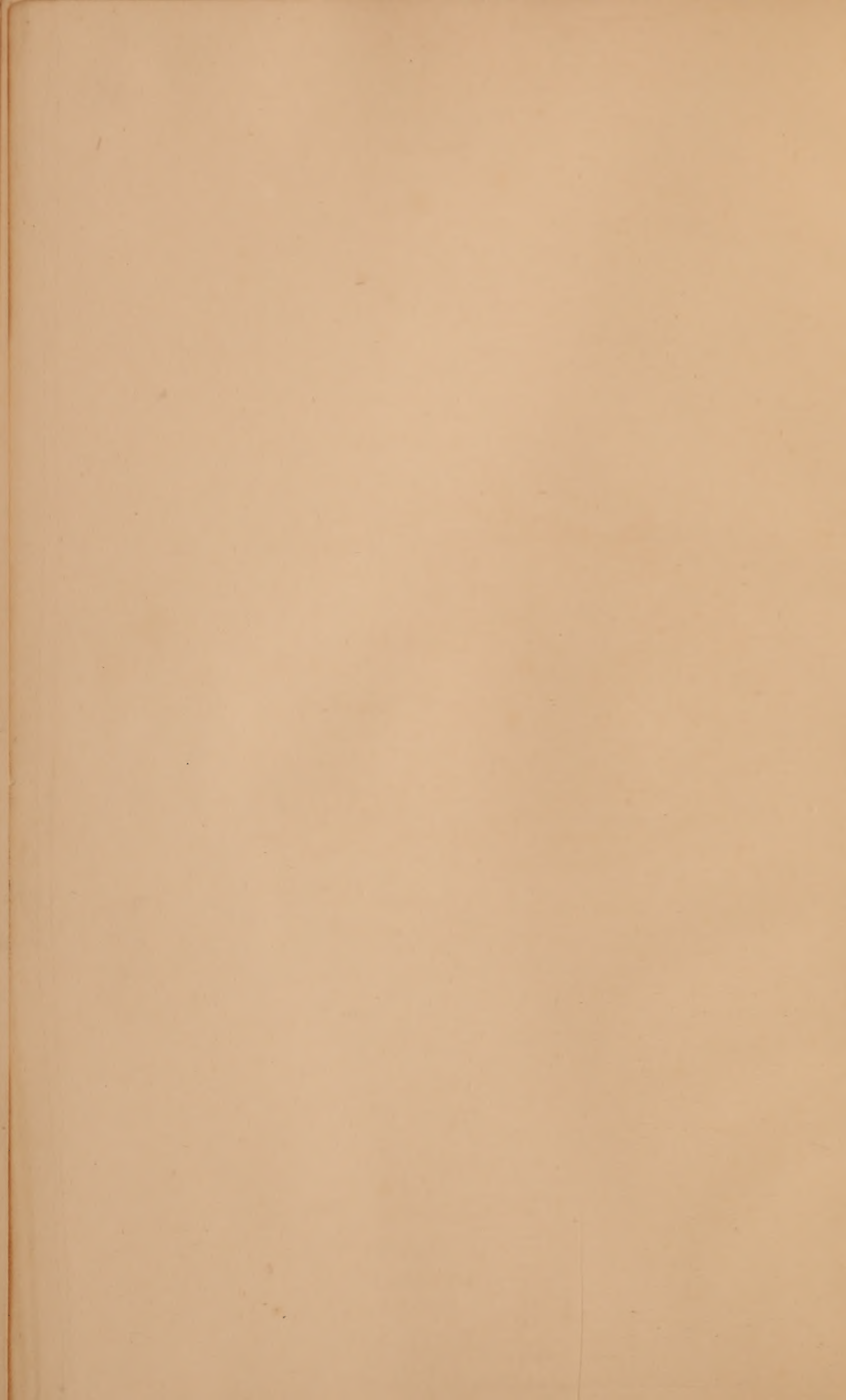
The Gift of

A. J. Peters, Jr.



Rare





PRACTICAL ESSAY

BREAKING OR TRAINING

THE
English Spaniel or Pointer.



By J. H. ...
1800

London: ...

Printed by ...

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—— si vis me *cavere*, cavendum est
Primum ipsi tibi!

K
Kunopædia.
A
PRACTICAL ESSAY
ON
BREAKING OR TRAINING
THE
English Spaniel or Pointer.
WITH
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTAINING
THE
ART OF SHOOTING FLYING.
IN WHICH THE
LATTER IS REDUCED TO RULE,
AND THE
FORMER INCULCATED ON PRINCIPLE.

BY THE LATE
WILLIAM DOBSON, ESQ.
OF EDEN-HALL, CUMBERLAND.

Second Edition.

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CONTENTS.

ESSAY ON BREAKING THE ENGLISH SPANIEL, &c.

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
<i>Novitiate of the pupil, and preparatory treatment by the tutor</i>	3
<i>Prefatory breaking ; not approved</i>	7
<i>Preliminary introduction to game ; how far expedient</i>	9
<i>Going on duty</i>	10
Means of acquiring command	—
<i>Throw off to hunt</i>	11
Pupil kept up in form Puzzle-peg	12
QUARTERING <i>the ground</i>	13
Giving the rudiments	14
How further managed	17
Form and mode of the evolution required	—
Its importance	—
Diagram for the purpose of showing and of cor- recting errors in beat	18
Method of acquiring a direction of the range	21
Stubble and broken ground to be avoided, in giving the first ideas of outline	24

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Pupil finds... Springs and chases</i>	27
Reclaiming from chase	28
<i>Escape during discipline, to be guarded against, as</i> mischievous in the extreme	29
<i>Prudential maxim</i>	30
<i>Blunder up without finding... Treatment</i>	31
<i>Corey rattled up, and headlong chase... Delicacy of</i> management necessary	32
<i>Whip described</i>	34
<i>Secret of making a dog stand</i>	35
SHOT to the pupil's find... Management and mode of advance	36
<i>Bird down... Breaking in the tutor</i>	37
DOWN CHARGE;—The corner-stone of the author's system, and the great principle of all refined education	38
Method of creating it	39
Cases varied, for the sake of more completely enforcing it	40
Summary view of this duty... Compared with inferior tactics	42
The formalities of correction to be strictly adhered to	43
The transferable source of every other excellence	46
<i>Lecture, never to be omitted</i>	47
Naval anecdote	—
<i>Bringing the game, disapproved</i>	50
SEEK DEAD... Conduct towards the pupil	51
<i>Legitimate approach, and final treatment</i>	52
<i>Footing out the game... The inestimable value of this</i> quality in the field, contrasted with troops of parade and ignorance	53

	<i>Page</i>
Progress of a haunt	53
Working out a retrieve	54
<i>Bird found winged... Conduct in approaching it</i>	55
<i>Bird again sprung, flutters off, and seized</i>	56
Apologetical note for a friendly admonition	—
Severity of discipline necessary	57
Case varied, requiring the tutor's judgment	58
<i>Bird missed, and gone... Attention to the pupil neces-</i> <i>sary</i>	59
Another note of admonition to the tutor	—
<i>Bird killed, and pupil dashes... Treatment</i>	60
<i>Pupil finally firm, and regularly brought up to the</i> <i>dead Bird</i>	—
Last severe trial of his endurance, and conclusive solemnity	61
<i>A scrap of ancient morality</i>	62
<i>Inaccuracies in language, a grievous impediment to</i> <i>advancement in knowledge</i>	64
<i>Blasphemy, not necessary to make a Man intelligible;</i> <i>with a conclusive remonstrance against swearing</i> <i>... One qualification necessary in a tutor</i>	65

THE VOCABULARY.

COME IN, &c.... BACK... HEY AWAY, &c.	67
WARE HARE, &c.... WARE LARK	68
GONE, GONE... HOLD UP... HAVE A CARE	69
TAKE HEED; or, TO HO	70
WARE CHASE... DOWN CHARGE	71
SEEK DEAD	72
WARE BIRD... DEAD, WARE DEAD	73
DOWN	74
<i>Subsidiary expletives</i>	75

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Abstract of duties, as contained in the vocabulary,</i> <i>referred to their previous illustration . . .</i>	76
MAXIMS, a decalogue of	77
<i>Further admonitions, of less general application . .</i>	86

SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTERS.

<i>On Blinking</i>	89
<i>Confirmation of Point, and Leading up to Game . .</i>	100
<i>On Hunting in Company, Brigading in the Field, &c. .</i>	122

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTAINING THE ART OF SHOOTING FLYING.

<i>Introductory address . . . Subject proposed . . .</i>	161
<i>Stock of the gun, imperfect knowledge of just fitting,</i> <i>the cause of much indecision, and consequent</i> <i>error</i>	165
<i>Again referred to, in note</i>	168
<i>Length of but recommended</i>	—
<i>Portrait of unskilful advance to point</i>	166
<i>A better example offered for imitation</i>	—
<i>Blunder at a black cock . . . Swearing not allowable, out</i> <i>of professional language</i>	167
<i>Approach to game, or advance to point</i>	168
<i>Arrival within chance of spring</i>	169
<i>Take form, and handle arms</i>	170
<i>Balance of position ; being that station upon the lower</i> <i>limbs, which admits of using the upper ones to</i> <i>most advantage</i>	—

	<i>Page</i>
A submission to an actual drilling of the person of the shooter necessary, and its efficacy demonstrated	171
An appeal to the drill, for the correction of error on the part of a more advanced pupil, indispensable	173

THE DRILL EXERCISE.

Difficulty of conveying, by words alone, any adequate idea of the methods of personal motion	174
Apology for attempting it on the present occasion	175
CARRY ARMS...Inverted bearing of the barrel proposed and described	176
The superior ease and elegance of this carriage, and its convenience for the shot indicated	177
The greater security afforded by it against the consequences of accidental discharge, demonstrated	179
Its peculiar use, as applied to shooting in cover	—
Equipment for drill	180
HANDLE ARMS	182
MAKE READY; or, MARK	184
To be instantly accompanied by "Take form"	—
Position of the lower limbs for a straight forward, or left-hand shot	185
Varied position, necessary for a shot to the right	—
PRESENT	—
<i>Line of sight, and line of level</i> ...The former to be irremoveably fixed on the object, and the latter subsequently brought up to it	186
More particularly explained	—
Impediments created by erroneous and undisciplined handling	—

	<i>Page</i>
FIRE...Queries concerning the shooter's ability to	
<i>stand fire</i>	187
Test proposed	188

GENERAL COMMENTARY.

Radical difference of level necessary for a flying shot, to be considered as the <i>arcanum</i> , or grand secret of the art	189
The lines of sight and level...The precedence due to the former again insisted on...If you invert this order, as in the rifle view, you will assuredly be lost...Axiom	—
Subsequent adjustment of the latter to a due coinci- dence with the line of flight	190
General opinion of "Birds being shot under," combated	191
Suspensions concerning an opposite, but unperceived, cause of much error...Extreme caution neces- sary to avoid any approach to such habit	192
<i>Point of time for the fire</i> discussed, as applying to the cross, the straight forward, or the diagonal Line of Flight	—
Exemplification of a Shot at the last, as exhibiting the principle upon which the rapid, or snap-shot is founded	193
Level effected by contact of the line of sight with the line of flight, at killing distance, compared with the slow deliberate level...Preference due to the former	192
Disposition of the limbs, or "balance of position," necessary to command the shot in every direc- tion	196

	<i>Page</i>
Cocking the gun...Not allowable until the game is actually on wing...Reasons	200
<i>Snap-shot</i> , as required for shooting in cover	202
Variation, in "taking form," necessary	203
Variation of the manual motions, with a different mode of coming to "present," specified	204
<i>Secure carriage of arms</i> , for march through cover	—
Compared with an opposite	205
Example of untutored bearing	—
Security finally enforced	207
<i>Recurrence to the drill</i> ; with an immediate view to the progressive instruction of <i>the junior pupil</i>	209
Swallow-practice	211
Measure of level for a cross-shot...Respect had to the state of the weather	212
The pupil hardened to stand fire	214
<i>Discipline of the eye</i>	215
A continued or prolonged hold of the flight, of the last importance to certainty of shot; and highly expedient as a matter of security	217
A test proposed, as the <i>experimentum crucis</i> on this head, and as the means of cultivating level to the extreme of perfection	219
<i>Pupil admitted of the order</i> ...Terms	—
<i>Motto</i>	220
<i>Equipment for the field</i>	—
<i>Introduction to game</i>	221
The final conquest over himself indispensable	223
High authority for the means of obtaining it	224
The author's defence of his system against the attacks of irregular practitioners	230

	<i>Page</i>
A familiarity with the differing flights of the different species of game, of importance to ultimate perfection	231
P. A.'s admitted as <i>licentiates</i> of the profession . . .	232
<i>Academical honours</i> , in gradation upwards, from B. to S. S. S.	234
Classical claim, on the part of THE KNIGHTS OF THE TRIGGER, to the Collar of the Order	235

“ Veniam pro laude peto ; laudatus abunde
Non fastiditus si tibi, Lector ! ero :
Hos quoque sex versus, in primo fronte libelli,
Si præponendos esse putabis, habe.—

“ Orba parente suo quicumque volumina tangis,
His saltem vestrâ detur in urbe locus :
Quoque magis faveas, non sunt hæc edita ab ipso,
Sed quasi de domini funere rapta sui :
Quidquid in his igitur vitii” *tentamen* “ habebit,
Emendaturus, si licuisset, eram.”

OVID. TRIST. lib. i. el. vi.

PREFACE.

IT is a misfortune, the consequences of which are rarely overcome by any merit whatever, on the part of an individual, whose fate it is to have his way to seek into life, after having lost that parent who alone was capable of giving to him his due direction ; and to whose fostering care, in the performance of which duty, a child becomes scarcely less indebted, than it has already been for its original existence. This serious truth will apply in a manner still more forcibly to a man's literary offspring. A posthumous work has all the difficulties of the orphan to contend with. It comes out exposed to all the consequences of its own uncorrected errors, and the mistakes of the person

who with the zeal of friendship, rather than with any similar feeling or adequate knowledge on the subject, may be induced to push it forward on the world.

The disadvantages attending on such a situation are but too manifest; and few are the instances in which the case has been more strongly exemplified, than in that of the volume which now presumes to offer itself to the notice of the public. It will be proper to apprise the reader, that the original sketch of what is here given was done at the request of a particular friend in Scotland, to supply him with a more correct means of pursuing upon principle, and of cultivating into a degree of superior refinement, a diversion which his situation presents very distinguished facilities of being amused by; and in order to repay the kindness and hospitalities received under his roof there, during an excursion undertaken with a fruitless hope to renovate a declining life, somewhat prematurely sinking under one of those distressing affections of the lungs,

which thrust a man out of the world before his time ; the further seclusions and miseries attendant upon which, and that dereliction which a man, who under the teasing fluctuations of personal uneasiness, can no longer partake nor contribute his share to the cheerfulness of others must expect, however heavily it may weigh upon his feelings, to experience, were occasionally cheated away by the arrangement and transmission, from one time to another, of the precepts here communicated.

It is to this friend, indeed, that their present appearance, in a shape considerably more extended than that in which they were originally transmitted to him, must in a great measure be attributed. He had been struck by the novelty of perceiving a subject, from general practice so little reconcilable to order, treated with so much appearance of system and of science. He recognised in it the principles of that refinement of discipline, which he had recently so much admired in some troops which the author had led

down thither, so superior to that of the unmanageable rabble which alone he had hitherto been a witness of. He viewed it, as he had beheld the dogs, with the enthusiasm of a sportsman; and conceiving that every man who ranked in this class was deeply interested in the truth of the doctrines here developed, and that he would be equally gratified by the manner in which the subject had been handled, he ceased not to press the author for their instant publication. Nor was it with less than a strong remonstrance against the threats of their publication, in the state they then were, that the letters were obtained back again by the author: under the promise of a further attempt on his part (if permitted), by means of a more perfect arrangement of the whole matter, which in its original transmission he was in no wise solicitous about; by dismissing, as much as was convenient, some local and personal familiarities, which had given a peculiar zest to it with the individual to whom they were addressed, but which might not be equally relished by the

general reader; and by the further elucidation of collateral points, to render it somewhat more deserving that favourable reception, which, without any direct hope of seeing accomplished, he was not altogether indifferent to the idea of its meeting from the public.

It is by the gentleman here alluded to, for obvious reasons, that the business of editor would best have been conducted; but the incommunicable distance at which he resides, and his total want of acquaintance with the avenues to the press, having placed an insurmountable bar to his undertaking the task, it has now devolved upon one, who, excepting by a long-continued peculiar intimacy with the author, has to feel himself little fitted for its execution. The subject, indeed, is not within the compass of his tact. It is beyond (he will not dare to say beneath) the sphere of his intelligence. For he will confess, that in his occasional attempts to smile, it has not been without some "compunctious visitings" of regret, that he has felt himself

incapable of taking his share in the heart-felt pleasure, with which he has heard these associates of the field recounting, with reciprocal delight, their thrice-told tales of triumph; dwelling with rapture on the exemplary virtues of a Cato, or the unshaken firmness of a Brutus; and pursuing through an eloquent detail of slaughter, the renovated glories of some fortunate campaign. Much, however, as he may have been made to perceive his own inferiority upon these occasions, it is with somewhat of more serious concern (for alas! these harmless transports will be heard no more), that he has now to contemplate his deficiencies on the subject: and it is no more than the truth to acknowledge, that in the midst of the materials which compose not a few of the following pages, he has found himself very much in the situation of a man editing a book in an unknown tongue: in which tongue, with an assurance only of the fidelity with which the matter, as far as he has found it completed, is now given, and not without the necessary *probatum est* from the deeper

reading of the friend aforesaid, it is here left to speak for itself, and to meet its due appreciation from those whom it may concern.

It appears from the author's papers, that subsequent to the first arrangement, by which the tuition of the dog was wrought into somewhat of regularity of system, together with further illustrations of some particular points, which he conceived of importance to its due explanation, and of peculiar application with the friend to whom they were addressed, a considerable variety of further matter had been thrown together by him, classed under different heads; with views as yet undetermined, with regard to the precise mode in which they should be applied, so as fully to convey the amount of what he had to say on the subject. Two of these only, viz. *On Confirming Point, &c.* and *On Blinking*, with some further illustrations of the great duty of *Down charge*, have been in any degree finished; and which, in the form of distinct chapters, under their respective

heads, are here added to the *Treatise on Breaking*. The others were, *On Hunting in Company*, and regular *Brigading in the Field**: *General Discipline; its distinguished advantages, examples of perfection, and method of enforcing it in refractory cases*. To these were to have been added, *A Comparative View of the respective merits of the English Spaniel, commonly known by the name of the Setter, and the Pointer; with some subsidiary matter, if the size of the volume were not likely to be too much increased, upon Breeding, Management in Kennel, &c.*

That the first of these, *viz.* “*Hunting in Company*,” did not get entirely finished by the author, is perhaps to be regretted by the true sportsman; inasmuch as it appears to have been his purpose to treat this

* The author had made considerable progress in this chapter, but was prevented from completing it: as such, therefore, it will be received. Being, however, brought up to a certain point, it will give a pretty correct notion of his views; and as otherwise, perhaps, not without its value to the reader, it is here given in the state in which it was found.

finishing branch of all-perfect education, of which he had so well laid the foundation in a separate early discipline, with singular effect. But beyond what is given as having received an arrangement from his own hand, the materials belonging to this, as well as the subsequent heads, are not in such order as, either in justice to the author or in deference to the public, would warrant any attempt to offer them in their present dislocated form. It is to be attributed, indeed, in a good measure, to a feeling of this latter kind on the part of the author, as much as to his own situation, that some of these articles were permitted to linger in an uncompleted state: for after being led seriously to adopt the idea of publication, although we find him* stipulating with his corresponding friend, as the representative of the public on this occasion, for the privilege of unfolding himself in his own way, it will readily be conceived, that in the more extended view which he was compelled to take of the

* Vide p. 3.

subject, he found it expanding under his hands ; and being a thing in the purposed mode of treating it so totally novel, it is natural that he should be averse to its passing out of them, in less than a state of perfect order. Impressed by sentiments of this nature, I know that it was in his contemplation, after having completely rounded his scheme of discipline, entirely to re-model the whole, by a re-arrangement of the matter in chapters, upon the progressive points of duty, in which these points, with all their various relations, should be separately discussed ; and doing away entirely the present form of personal address, in the familiarities connected with which the public might not be in the humour of feeling much interest, to give unto it the more assuming form of a regular treatise on the subject ; in which the general rule should precede, agreeably to grammatical order, and be immediately followed by elucidation through all the variations of practice. Now that this is the very best possible mode of teaching grammar, I am not without some doubts ;

and with regard to the subject in question, that such alteration did not take place, I certainly must be permitted to say, is not to be regretted: for what the matter might have gained in form, it would have more than lost in spirit and in interest. The prompt and immediate introduction to the whole business of the field, followed by the compressed view of the system, as again brought before the eye in the Vocabulary, puts the reader more directly in possession of his subject: and the necessary elucidation of particular points could not in any way so well have been given, as by a complete separation of the latter from the general outline of duties, which without such interruption, has been already more distinctly traced.

In saying this, it will be understood, that the editor has very much in view the matter intended to be delivered in the unfinished chapters above alluded to; and being aware that a man who is not heard to the full extent of what he has to say upon a subject, is not heard to every

advantage, he has only to lament that disability, which, in the conscious apprehension of marring the materials, has deterred him from any attempt to give what he has reason to think would have been of value to the reader. In its present form, however, it is presumed, and that upon somewhat better authority than his own, that there will be found in it quite enough to claim the attention of every man who is at all tinctured with the love of the sport; and that by having kept a firm eye on principle, as the ground-work of duty, more especially upon the great point of "Down charge," immediately connected as it is with all the perfections required for "Hunting in company," although falling short of being heard to the full extent of his purposed explanations, the author has not failed in rendering his system, as a scheme of education, sufficiently complete: and while the man of more standing than skill in the pursuit, may from the perusal of these sheets find himself awakened to a higher sense of discipline, the younger sportsman will still more strongly feel the

obligation conferred upon him, by the means here afforded of fitting himself for the dignity of command, and by the important lights held out to him upon a subject, where he is “at present without any rational direction whatever for his conduct.” It is on these grounds, that in giving the *Kunopædia* to the public, the editor feels himself warranted in looking forward to its favourable reception, to adopt a language which he finds bequeathed to him, “from every man who can perceive beauty in order; from every man who has the ambition to become the leader of efficient troops; from every man who takes the field with the idea of taking the direction of his dog, or whose notions of the diversion rise at all above the level of an unmeaning ramble after the tail of the latter, in the mutual indulgence of a gaping inquiry which way they are to go.”

It remains now only to make an observation or two concerning some shadows of personal, or at least of local, application: which, although contemplating an address

of a general nature, the author has yet permitted to remain; as well as on the obvious predilection in giving the illustration of precept from a species of game, with which the great majority of readers are little, if at all, acquainted. It may be proper to do this, not from any apprehension that the skilful sportsman will anywhere be at a loss to make a transfer of the idea intended to be conveyed, but for the sake of bringing the reader more completely acquainted with the author's views. It was not merely on account of the personal application to the friend to whom the letters were addressed, but it was by choice that the scene was originally laid in Scotland. Considering himself as pledged to give the outlines of a perfect education, he has claimed the privilege of doing this in a situation, where certain great principles are most directly and eminently attainable. On this head, it may be satisfactory to hear the author in his own words. I extract the following, therefore, from an unfinished chapter, apparently designed as a concluding review of the main points

of his system ; and which may, with great propriety, be given in this prefatory manner to the reader, as conveying, in very expressive terms, some hints which he will do well to attend to.

“The reader will understand, that for the illustration of these doctrines, the scene has purposely been laid among the hills in Scotland. The small enclosures, and the sneaking practice, which it is not very easy to restrain, after its nearer connexion with a mid-day find has been discovered by the pupil, of sweeping along the outlines of a hedge, instead of making good his regular fieldings as he ought, in the first instance ; and still more, the obstructions and entanglements, created by the green crops of a cultivated country, are all against “the consummation devoutly to be wished,” of establishing early upon the pupil that first great principle of utility and beauty, an extended but regulated range. Even the fair extents of open field, which in the more fertile plains of the south offer themselves to the sportsman,

and some of them very sufficiently stocked with objects of pursuit, are by no means equally favourable to our purpose. Three-fourths of the ground of this nature presents only a close-shaven barley-stubble or oatersh, that will barely perhaps afford cover for an ant ; over which, although in justice to a young dog it be necessary to keep up his regularity of beat, we are wasting our own time and his powers, without a chance of interesting his attention ; whilst every now and then, a narrow stripe of turnips, or some equivalent, holds out a temptation of threading it from one end to the other ; thereby interrupting, and by frequent repetition doing away, all attention to the first great lesson of a regular quartering to windward ; which from the incalculable advantages connected with it, it so much behoves the tutor to enforce and to establish. In fact, it is only where some such scope of country, as that which lies open to the more exalted pursuits of the sportsman, amongst the mountains of the north, that this great lesson can be practised to every advan-

tage; where, with little interruption, he can maintain his line of advance for miles, with a furlong or two of beat on either hand, over ground where, from the more rambling habits of the game, if not from its greater profusion, the expectation of the dog is more continually kept alive to find; and over every inch of which, in the regular completion of his alternate sweeps, he is to be called on to do his duty. It is here only that we can draw with most effect the first outlines of grandeur: and as first impressions have no inconsiderable influence on character, we are fairly warranted in looking forward to the superior performances of an animal, who has had his energies called forth in a scene like this, when compared with one, who has been doomed to plod away his youthful vivacities, by the hour together, in a patch of potatoes, and to play at hide-and-seek with his master along the windings of a ditch, or amongst the thickly-wooded fences, in some of the richer soils of England. The gentleman in the south undoubtedly has many advantages, in the

variety of game which, in the course of the season, is presented to him; but of the grandeur and style in which the diversion of shooting admits of being prosecuted amongst the hills of the north, for the somewhat too brief period during which, for a variety of reasons, the pursuit is at all practicable, he can have but a very humble conception; and for the means of creating perfection in the dog, the advantages are altogether on the side of the former. Let me add, that with a somewhat various acquaintance with different counties in the south of this island, although I have seen many dogs, to whom, without having had their noses elevated above the level of a partridge, it would be unfair to refuse the epithet of good, I have never witnessed one whom I could consider as entitled to any very eminent distinction, who had not in early life the good fortune to have his legs stretched, and his faculties expanded, on the moors.

“And here I shall take the liberty of pausing, for the purpose of giving way to

some sensations, which in the present rage for agriculture, I know not whether it be quite safe to avow. Considering, however, the scene we have been contemplating, as a school of superior education, a man who steps forward as a professor on the subject, may be pardoned for a confession, in which he will perhaps be joined by not a few devoted to the sport, that it is not without an evil eye they have had, from one year to another, to mark the increasing progress of cultivation, which has been driving from their native hills the denizens of the mountain; and with the exception of two or three of the most northern counties, has gone pretty nearly to the total extinction of the breed in England. Our acquaintance with them, indeed, has become so limited, as scarcely to admit elsewhere the due application of a hint, that wherever it lies within a man's reach to have his dog awakened to the first perception of his own powers, by a sufficient acquaintance with this species of game, he will find his account in neglecting no means whatever to accomplish

it. Even on the other side of the Tweed, a keener attention to pasturage, exerting itself in the more frequent burning off the redundant supply of food and shelter for the game, has of late years been making some lamentable inroads upon the natural privileges of the sportsman. Still, however, there remains for those who have the means of seeking it, an ample field for superior instruction: and, without the risk of setting national partialities on a blaze, by any conjectural opinion how far the milder atmosphere of the south may venture to come in competition with the keen air of the Caledonian hills, for the cultivation of intellect*, I can have no hesitation

* In a book recently “put forth” by one of the Lords of Session in Scotland, containing Memoirs of the celebrated author of the Elements of Criticism, he has thought fit to eke out his two ponderous quartos with observations made by a professor of natural history in the University of Edinburgh, who had been appointed by Lord Kaimes to make a survey of the Western Isles, A. D. 1764. Amongst other equally valuable matter, we are informed, that in order to instruct the inhabitants in the art of spinning flax, a woman had been sent thither from the county of Fife; and it seems that “she was struck with bodily amazement at the quick comprehension of the natives of these isles; who, without understanding a syllable of her language, perfectly compre-

in saying, that were my fortune of that description which would make it convenient to realize choice, my pointers at least should have the full benefit of an education in Scotland."

In proceeding to the remaining part of this volume, containing "Instructions" to

hended, in a day or two, every thing she meant. But," adds the doctor, "I was not at all surprised,"—not even *bodily* surprised, being as how—"that I have, for these two months past, been more and more convinced, that the mind of man is more perfect as one moves northwards;"—Q. Does he mean the mover's mind?—"that a penetrating air produces penetrating souls; and that wind and weather, the keener they are, appear to give a sharper edge to the human understanding." Doubtless the world is under infinite obligation to this sapient lord (Woodhouselee), for thinking it worth while, after an interval of fifty years, to bring forth these deeply philosophical reflexions of a man so eminently capable, as this Edinburgh professor shows himself, to judge of human intellect. Leaving him, however, to settle this point, about "penetrating souls," as well as he can with his southern readers, and to exhibit his powers of phisiological research, by showing the relation of cause and effect between "the wind and weather, and the human understanding," I confine myself within my own immediate province, and am solicitous only to have received, as a kunogetical truth, that the best of all possible situations for the cultivation of canine intellect, is "the Muirs."

the shooter for acquiring a skilful use of his arms, there exists little necessity for any accessory introduction on the part of the editor: it will very sufficiently speak for itself. But it may not be superfluous to say something concerning the more perfect form, in which what is here presented for the mutual improvement of the shooter and his companion would have appeared, if the author had been permitted to complete his intention on the subject.

The reader will have already seen, from the titles of the additional chapters concerning the dog, the manner in which what was yet wanting to give some finishing touches to his education, together with what the author wished further to communicate on the subject of the animal himself, was meant to be arranged; and which, as furnishing ample materials for one volume, it was his purpose to publish first. As a companion to this, a second volume, confined solely to the business of the gun, would have then made its appearance; of

which, what composes the second part of the book as now offered, would have made the leading article ; being followed by several additional chapters, containing a considerable variety of matter, immediately connected with the subject : altogether, giving to the sportsman a more perfect knowledge, as well as a more dexterous use, of his weapon ; and evincing, with somewhat more clearness than some modern philosophers have hitherto been able to make out their application of the doctrine, that on this subject, at least, “ knowledge is power.”

Such was the regular order of our author's views ; but as a man who puts forth to sea, although with a clear idea of his destination, is exposed to winds and currents, and can not always tell where he shall make land, so did it fare with him ; and in the prosecution of his plan, the latter part of his subject got considerably the start of the former. Having seriously adopted the notion of giving his matter to

the public, he had begun the business of enlarging and of arranging the *Kunopædia*; but the chief part of the materials was already in the possession of his friend, in a state imperfect enough, but amply sufficient for him to go to work with the pupil: and being not a little anxious for the success of his system, well knowing, as he did, that “good shooting is a very necessary ingredient in the making of good dogs,” and aware of some material deficiencies on the part of his friend in this respect, he volunteered this attempt to give a greater accuracy to the hands in which its credit was so immediately at stake.

Having thus taken up the fowling-piece, with a view of giving instructions for its use, the subject led him directly to a discussion of its power and its construction: and here it was that he got diverted out of his original course. He had a peculiar fondness for whatever came within the compass of an ingenious use of figures, as

well as for the superior contrivances of mechanism ; in which last he had acquired no inconsiderable skill : and conceiving that he had acquitted himself to the full extent of his friend's speculation for the establishment of a kennel, by the ample means here supplied of "creating one good dog," he felt himself as it were on a kind of landing-place, where he might stop awhile to take his breath ; and was in no wise solicitous to put a finishing hand to his dog-discipline, so far as the public were further concerned in it ; or to press himself forward on their notice, until his mind had run its course, in its own way, over some favourite topics ; upon which the intimate knowledge he had acquired of the construction of the gun, and a miscellaneous collection of observations and experiments concerning its effects, that from one time to another had been accumulating with him, had put it in his power to expatiate. Hence the "Instructions to the Shooter," together with the supplementary chapters growing

out of the subject, got an undue precedence in the order of completion. In fact, these chapters are so nearly finished, that they might with no great trouble have been put into a condition of appearing here, in their proper place, agreeably to the original design of the author, as an appendage to the "Instructions." This unquestionably would have made the latter appear with additional advantage: but such an increase of bulk would have inflamed the price too much beyond the ordinary calculation for a volume upon our present scale. It has been deemed advisable, therefore, to confine the present publication to the leading matter of each subject, given in an united state; with a presumption, that by embracing thus the mutual improvement of the dog and of the shooter, it will more effectually than in any other, support a claim to general attention. Of course, the supplementary chapters, concerning the gun itself, must for the present be withheld; but containing as they do a variety of amusing and

instructive information to the sportsman, it is by no means the intention of the editor that they should be suffered to perish. In the little that remains to be done to prepare them for the press, he has not, as in the unfinished materials for the tuition of the dog, to encounter professional idiom, or the technicalities of language belonging to the business of the field. He finds nothing in them much out of the way of ordinary composition; and if the present publication should meet that favourable reception, of which he is led to entertain an earnest hope, it is his purpose, at an early period, to offer them to the further approbation of all those on whom it has pleased our author, with allowable whim, to confer the honourable distinctions of his new-created ORDER OF THE TRIGGER.

In the mean time, the editor has the satisfaction to believe, that in their present form, these Instructions will be read with no inconsiderable interest, not only by the

ardent youth, who is beginning to look with contempt upon his boyish employment among the hedges, and to feel within himself the ambition of rising to the honour of a flying shot, and of taking rank as a sportsman in the open field, but by the numerous band of more advanced pretensions, and familiar enough perhaps with arms, but who are still grievously labouring under some habitual awkwardness or defect in the management of their weapon ; the unperceived source of continual blunder and disappointment. By the whole of this irregular corps, the advantages derivable from a due submission to the rules here laid down, can not fail to be still more immediately and importantly felt, if they be not incurably lost in the hopeless heresy of continuing to flounder on in their own way, rather than by an assiduous appeal to principle, to work out a thorough reformation in themselves.

In the further support of which principle, as requiring “an actual submission

of the person of the shooter to the discipline of the drill," to offer any formal train of argument, or by any of the usual modes of reasoning, to repel the sneer with which petulant vulgarity, or unreflecting ignorance, may be prompted to entreat "the novel action of a man's working himself into a shot by rule," and the "fire-side foolery," here inculcated, would, on the part of the editor, be an idle trespass on the reader's attention, and only detain him from the better employment of his time. Every such objector will receive his answer in the course of the following pages: and in taking leave, I have only to avail myself of the author's own language, in a passage selected from the unappropriated matter within my reach; and which, as an impressive appeal to the understanding of the reader, may be accepted as conclusive on this point. "In the superior attainment of all art, a submission to method and to rule is of the very essence of instruction: and if that rule be not already supplied, we are under the neces-

sity of making it for ourselves. Rules are only the analysis of perfect practice: and he who takes the trouble of analyzing, furnishes himself with the best means of adding facility to certainty."

THE EDITOR.

ESSAY ON BREAKING
THE
ENGLISH SPANIEL, &c.
IN A
LETTER TO A FRIEND.

SIR,

As I have always looked upon a promise, even on a trivial subject, as a thing of some solemnity, I can not hold myself acquitted, without the attempt, at least, to fulfil an obligation, which the approach of the season, and your wishes recently transmitted to me, remind me of. I have been urging my mind, therefore, to the recall of thoughts and of notions on the subject of a pursuit once so agreeable to me, and on which the exhibition of my practice with you has made you conceive that it is in my power to convey useful instruction. Heaven knows! it is in a state most unfitted for a task so immediately connected with the idea of cheerfulness and all the gayeties of health. But, whatever be the sighs which the comparison of

my present condition with such a train of ideas must necessarily excite, I will endeavour to trim up the point of a neglected pen, and to set it a running on the subject of *Dog-breaking*, as solicited; because I do think that it will do you good as well as your four-footed friend.—By your leave, Sir, permit me the introduction of this word; for, if you are not prepared to admit, nor solicitous to create, something like this reciprocity of feeling between you, you will never be able so effectually to second my attempt,—to put you in the way of establishing to yourself a little system of occasional amusement together, in a situation where the nearly total negation of what the world calls society, makes it of more moment that you should not be undeserving of each others company, upon something like principle.

In the introduction of my subject, connected with a word of such very formal import, I can not help expressing my apprehensions lest I should be made a debtor to your expectations beyond what I can be at all answerable for: I can not engage to make up what I have got to say into any thing like a regular treatise, nor to be materially studious of its arrangement: you must take the materials as they come; put them in order, if in that respect they should chance to be defec-

tive, and make the best of them, remembering that they are sketches which I claim the privilege of treating in my own familiar way; by no means to be handed elsewhere, or as giving any adequate idea of that *scientific* treatment (I am not ashamed of the word) of which I do think the subject capable. I can only, indeed, from the mass of my conceptions, select a few points, which, with a view to something like system, are of chief importance, and which are most applicable to what will be within the scope of your practice. You must be prepared also to follow most literally and implicitly my directions, without asking for reasons which I may hint at, but which I can not allow myself room enough to give at large. If your pupil should turn out to have any brains in his head, you will not fail to find out those reasons; and, if I ever have the pleasure of seeing you again, we will discuss their propriety and their importance, which you will by that time be able to conceive somewhat more strongly than, I apprehend, you do at present.

In the first place, then, send for the dog from ————*, the moment you receive this

* The nearest little town, about ten miles off, where the dog was brought up.

letter. “A week or ten days hence,” you reply, “we shall have a cart going; and, as there are yet three weeks to come before——” Sir, you will excuse me; but I can not admit an inclination on your part to fly off, *in limine*, from the letter of my instructions. It is not directly with a view to the longer advantage that will be thus afforded you of taking him out, and of introducing him to a knowledge of his game before the season actually begins. You do not apprehend my motives: I must be allowed, however, to renew my peremptory order to have him sent for immediately; and, on his arrival, let him be shut up in some agreeable, but retired situation, well bedded with clean straw: clear his nose, if necessary; this will be effected by two or three doses of one to two ounces of *flor. sulph.* Keep him thus chained up under your own immediate care: feed him yourself; yes, Sir, by no means let his food come from any person but yourself, and that at some regular hour. In a morning give him a short airing in the field behind you; let him gambol off at pleasure, but under the occasional check and acquired command of “COME IN here!” being the first word he has to learn in your vocabulary: no permission to bound over the fence, nor to be off beyond the perfect control of your eye and voice: no rambling about to pick

up idle acquaintance in the village ; but back immediately to the security and retirement of his chain and kennel. As it suits your convenience, look in upon him occasionally in the course of the day ; *talk* to him a little cheerfully ; caress him ; let him out for a few minutes ; play with him, and again chain him up. On no account let this, or any part of this, be done by your servants or your children ; and let him be secured, therefore, where they have not access to him*.—“ What, in the name of wonder, is all this preparation for ? ” you will say. I will tell you ; it is to get acquainted with your dog ; it is to break the habits of gossiping, too probably acquired where he has been brought up ; it is to endeavour to make the first necessary incision in his head, to insert the idea that, “ Here is something more than ordinary going forward, and this *master* of mine—— ; ” you may *show* him the whip, in order that he may perceive and acknowledge you as such, by letting it fall lightly over him in the course of these visits to him, making him “ DOWN ” at the time. At the sound of this word, he must be formally taught a close and handsome crouch upon the

* A fortnight at least of this particular attention on the part of the breaker himself, to get acquainted with his pupil, and to awaken his attention, will be required.

ground; the fore-feet extended straight, and his nose exactly parallel between them. This lesson must be uniformly given when taken out on airing as above; first with the chain in hand, and your foot pressing on his neck, if necessary, to keep him close; while the whip falls gently, but with such expression of its meaning as may be called for, over him: proceed to practise this lesson with the chain dropped, and the foot withdrawn; and, lastly, when loosened from the chain, until he *shows obedience*. Much, very much, will be anticipated by some proficiency in this apparently simple lesson; and, from all this form of feeding and visiting, he will begin to perceive, as above, that, “here is something going forward; and this master of mine is the only person from whom I can find out what it all means.”

I am no great advocate for what the game-keepers earn their two or three guineas a head by, upon dogs put out to them to, what they call, break in; that is, to make them stop to example, and then exhibit them to their gaping employer, with “A capital dog this will make you, Sir; I’ll warrant him complete, staunch, firm as a tree; wants nothing but working; backs up to my old boy there; see, how he stands!” Why, ay! so does a cipher on the

wrong side of an unit, signifying nothing; for the poor animal has not a single idea put into his head about the great business of *finding game*, and is totally lost without his fugelman: like the witless *eleves* of other hireling academies, he returns home from this mockery of education with every thing to learn. You, however, are not in a situation of thus squandering money, or of wasting time; and so much the better for your dog; for whom I have in contemplation a better tutor and a wiser master. Besides, in the commencement of a system, when I am engaged in laying before you the ground-work of education, I feel myself bound to keep general principles in view; and, considering the matter as a general question, I must repeat that I am no advocate for the common practice of a prefatory breaking-in, without the object of killing the game being made a part of the lesson: it is to trifle away time; or, perhaps worse, to trifle away attention by the unexplained foolery of pursuit without object; and to throw a damp over the rising ardour of that pursuit, by the perpetual disappointment of instinctive wishes. This is an observation which must be understood *sub modo*; and I have it not in my plan to enlarge upon the modifications which, in various cases, or even in yours perhaps, this treatment must

admit of. Suffice it to say, excepting that a young dog should be taken out to know, and to enjoy, under command, the scent of his game; and so be led—yes, Sir, *led** back again, in order the better to fix attention: I would have mine, prepared as above, brought directly to his work, and to the actual business of having game killed before him. It is here implied that he has been made familiar with the gun, in the course of your visits to him, and to *stand fire* by degrees, and to enjoy it as a signal for food, or as the prelude to the little privilege of being occasionally at liberty under your eye, during his novitiate, as above directed.

I shall be under the necessity, I believe, of transporting myself, in idea I mean, nearly four hundred miles: ah! Sir, would that it were as easily practicable in reality! in order, in some measure, to accompany you during the earlier part at least of these instructions. You have only to borrow a little of the second sight upon this occasion; a commodity which, amidst the recesses of your mountains, is yet, I fancy,

* I may, probably, seek occasion to discuss this point of discipline hereafter; but I can not pause here to give my reasons at large why, after having his faculties first awakened to the perception of his game, I am prescribing this constrained mode of conducting your pupil home again.

though with more difficulty than formerly, to be procured; and to let me attend, like a familiar, at your elbow, as you now proceed in your attempt to exemplify them. I shall be relieved thus from the dull task of tracing, in a didactic form on paper, little minute regulations, and shall thus be enabled to render myself more briefly, as well as forcibly intelligible. So, Sir, we are about to take the field in earnest: you are equipped; and we are setting off. Stop, a moment; “COME IN HERE, Cato! will you? See the wanton devil has got a hundred yards ahead, “COME IN, I say.” Remember this; it is *one of the first secrets* in the science of dog-breaking, and it has an influence far above your power at present to conceive, never to suffer him, when going upon actual service, nor indeed upon common occasions of mere travel on a road, to have his nose ahead of you. It is no more than decent to see an older dog at heel, and in order; but with an untutored youngster it is absolutely indispensable, as the means to acquire command. I repeat it, therefore, *never suffer your dog to put his nose ahead of you.* Keep him, literally so, close to your knee; check him with the voice, with the crack of the whip, and thence to a good round trimming, if a most perfect and direct obedience to “Come in here,” is not otherwise to be obtained. For

this reason, your first lessons must be on foot; and do not mount a horse, until you are decidedly master here. I must insist upon your attention to this; for I want to arrest and to ingross that of your dog, undisturbed and undiverted by gossiping or trifling, or by any other object than that which is about to be presented to him; and I have to employ his disposition to be off upon his range, to better purpose than that of the undirected scamper of a puppy, who has just found the use of his legs, and is willing to try how fast they will carry him. It is owing to a lazy inattention on this head, for it requires some trouble at first, that many a dog gives you ten times more plague in perfecting than he otherwise would do:—Remember, therefore, the whip in hand; the dog close to your knee; we are going upon duty; no wantoning, no trifling! And so proceed, until you come upon your ground, to *throw him off* in form.

For this purpose, choose the finest piece of unbroken ground of fair extent, and where you are likely to find. Here you have an instant advantage which scarcely any man can equally possess; and it were unpardonable, therefore, to lose it, by failing in the very commencement to teach him, what, if neglected, he will not

so readily learn hereafter, that first of all lessons, yet so seldom witnessed in tolerable perfection, a regular *quartering to find*. Of course, you will give him the advantage of the wind, and of the morning air, while the feeding haunt is fresh. Caress him, and talk to him, with “GOOD DOG ! &c.” before you throw him off; and then “HEY, AWAY !”—giving, with an eager extension of your arm, the direction of his range, walking after him a little, and obliging him, as well as you can, to take this range *across the wind*. His legs will lead him off, and instinct will soon make him find that he has a nose that was meant for something. He begins to hunt;—I hope he throws it, in an attitude of inquiry, into the wind: for, though his range be across, his nose, as his own sagacity will by-and-by teach him, should ever have a bearing to windward. If he puzzles on the ground, you must get up towards him, and encourage him to get on*; with “HEY ON !

* Young dogs, who have not yet acquired a carriage of themselves, are very apt to get their noses upon the ground, and to waste their time upon inquiries they have no business with, some of them of a very improper nature. It behoves a tutor, therefore, to endeavour to keep up the nose to pointer-pitch; for which purpose, where this grovelling propensity is too prevalent, it is not unusual to see recourse had to the “marvellous device” of the puzzle-peg: but, I must confess, I never saw any good done by it; on the contrary,

—HOLD UP, good dog!”—again presently recalling him, showing him on his road the other way, and giving him by these seemings of example, his first rudiments in the crosses of quartering. It is hard work at first; so is the business of all sound instruction; drudgery! sad drudgery! But at present you are fully able, or to a pupil of powers you would be incompetent to the office of a tutor; and if you would lay a good foundation, you must not make account of the toil; you will be amply repaid hereafter. It is not of importance how

the perpetual fretful interruptions to beat, which it occasions, operates against the very principle of a radical cure. Where the circumstance arises, as is frequently the case, from a dulness of nose, which is obliged to seek for information downwards; or perhaps from some bastardizing touch of derivation from a dog of an inferior trade, the proper employment of whose nose is on the ground; these are defects which will never be cured by splicing a bit of stick to the under-jaw, and you may as well let the half-bred creature grub on untormented in his own way. The only real remedy, with an animal that is worth cultivating into form, is to get the dog on, and to keep him up in rate; to give him a confidence in himself; and, as he rises in acquaintance with his game, he will elevate his nose, as well as his notions, to superior objects, and get above being stopped by every babbling inquiry. There is yet a stronger reason for getting the better of this propensity: if permitted to work like a hound upon the foil, he will infallibly acquire a habit of puzzling up too near the game, without being early enough alarmed into that instructive stop, by which he is to be wrought up into the dignity of a pointer.

short his ranges from you are at first ; but this system of crossing the general line of your progress into the wind must be adhered to. He will soon, if you manage him with judgment, take his ranges each way ; and leave you, without so much fatigue, nearly in the centre.

We will suppose that he is gone off hand some hundred yards to the right ;—this is full far enough, or perhaps too far to trust him at first: Check him with the whistle, and “Cato! BACK HERE, BACK!” stopping yourself at the time. We will suppose that he obeys your call, by his head thrown round at the summons ; by a stop of attention in sympathy with yours ; and, with some hesitation at being thus interrupted in his gallop, by making an, as yet, imperfect hunt of his way back directly towards you. Receive him with all possible encouragement, and show him his road to a similar range on your left, by setting off towards it yourself as he approaches, by the eager index of your hand, and by the cheering notes of “HEY ON, good dog! HEY ON.” If, in the increase of his distance from you, he looks back under the apprehension of control, let it be, “HEY ON! HOLD UP!” to the limits of your intended range. —If he do not obey your summons of recall,

you must patiently find the means of making him do it, by stopping immediately yourself. Go not after him, nor move, *subsequent* to the challenge, as above; calling to him again and again, and demanding his obedience. He may shuffle a little at first, under the sense of being thus interrupted; he may, likely enough, make a pretence of hunting, as an excuse; but you must keep a discriminating eye upon him; and if it be only a pretence, permit it not, but continue to insist on his return; and if he have been taught no vices, I will warrant he will give up the point. If he exhibit symptoms of being refractory, let the note of “BACK” be exchanged for that of “COME IN HERE*,” and make him “DOWN;” *showing* him the whip, *i.e.* let it fall lightly over him, but no flogging:—then, again—“HEY, AWAY;” but to the side opposite to that from which he has been called in, giving him the direction of your hand, &c. as before. It is scarcely necessary to observe why I say, “no flogging,” here: I wish to establish a prompt and willing obedience to the summons of recall; an undreading and gallant return to the employment of his powers elsewhere, and to better purpose than that of

* I beg to refer to the Vocabulary for the different import of these two words of command, whose use and meaning I wish to have preserved unconfounded and distinct.

having them trifled away under his own non-guidance; and where, from the distance, he may begin to conceive too, that he is out of the reach of control, and that he can dispose of them full as well himself. Sir, we must extinguish, even before they exist, the jarring elements of self-will; we shall have a world of trouble else: I will have the direction of his every motion; and I begin here. You must labour, therefore, with diligence this lesson of “Back,” until he yield implicit obedience in it. It is by no means a difficult one; if he has not already been rendered lewd, by mismanagement, or by some unlicensed ramble, during his puppyhood. If the seeds of vice have thus unhappily been sown, I am sorry for it; for there is only one way to eradicate them, and that is against the cheerful, undreading return, which we so much wish to obtain. But there is no alternative, the whip must be instantly called in to your assistance; we can not think of *advancing on beat*; we shall do nothing; we shall never be understood in the higher parts of our geometry, in the fine delineation of our curves and angles, unless we have acquired a thorough command here.

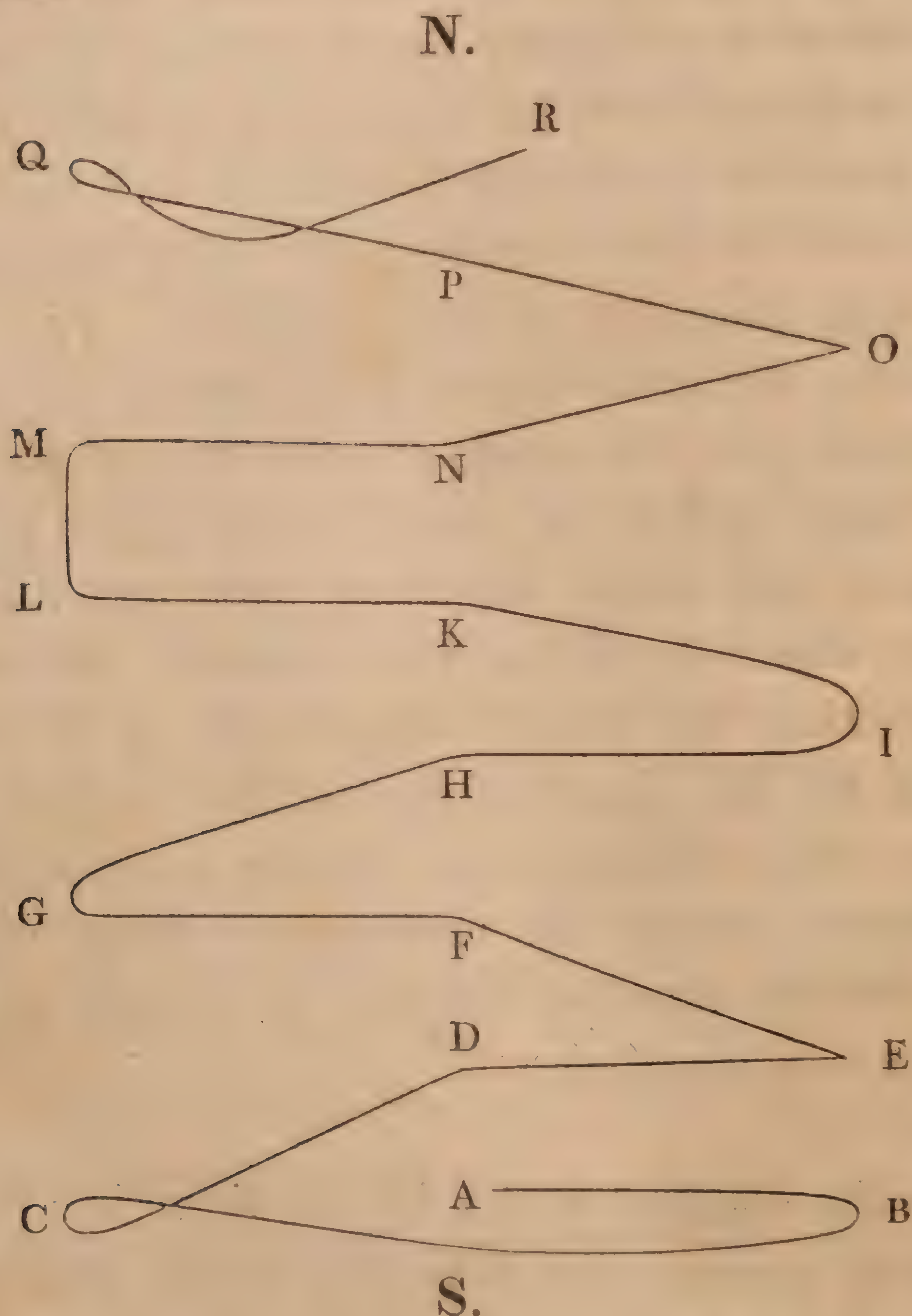
I shall now presume that he begins to comprehend this lesson; that he takes his cue from

you, and ranges off pretty well in line; and that, under the immediate submission to the call of "BACK," you have now acquired a tolerable direction of his course to the alternate sides of your intended line of beat, upon which we are now preparing to advance. When he has got a good round rate off each way, take occasion, as soon as he has fairly passed you, being cheered as usual, to advance with quick steps, unperceived by him, directly into the wind: if he perceive, and turn towards you, bend your course instantly towards him, and urge him, as before, with "HEY ON! HOLD UP!" &c. to the completion of his proper range; and so contrive, without interruption to him, to get on about fifteen or twenty yards in advance; by which time he will be arrived at his limits. Stop; give him the whistle, with "Cato! BACK HERE, BACK!" waving with the hand next him, to indicate his line of advance. Let your eye be on him, but your face into the wind; in order that, *looking to this as the index of his motions*, he may learn to make this advance, and to cross you *in front*. Cheer him as he passes; show him on his way; and urge him, as before directed, to the other side of his beat. As he gets off towards his permitted extent, again make your advance of twenty yards into the wind, and again bring him across you. The

rarest accomplishment of a dog, and not less valuable than rare, is *fine quartering*; and I am, therefore, thus minute on the mechanical method of creating it, because there is no one thing which makes such a distinction in the scale of merit between one dog and another, as the sagacious expenditure of his powers in *hunting to find*, or an unmeaning, undirected ramble over a country for the chance of standing at game, when he happens to stumble on it. To produce perfection is difficult, and must be the work of time; so much the more reason for sticking patiently to the principle. You will observe, the great object is to procure a regular advance into the wind, at each end of his line of range, abreast of your line of march in the centre, and rather ahead of you, and then to cross direct to the call or whistle. When in perfection, the whistle only should on all occasions be the signal of check; but at first, the voice also, with the more varying expression of its tones, within the compass of range above alluded to, must be called in to explain and to enforce its meaning.

In the conduct of this lesson, there is a point of very considerable difficulty, which puzzles a young tutor much; and in the unskilful management of which, the talents of many a promising

pupil are utterly lost. I must, therefore, enlarge upon it a little; and for this reason, as well as for the sake of correcting some other errors, and of more amply elucidating and inculcating the whole lesson, I shall make out a bit of a diagram, like the tracing of a seaman's courses on his chart, in order the better to explain myself.



Let the above represent a Beat to windward, with a Breeze from the North.

From our first station at (A), his range is towards (B); you check him at its extent; but you have not advanced, or he does not perceive, or not understand your advancing, and he turns *to the right about*; and half hunting, and half shrinking, perhaps under the apprehension of being chid, he returns *within* his beat;—now this is all direct loss, and crosses behind you; that is, it would be behind you, if you did not face about* directly towards him;

* For this valuable idea, as the clue by which we are to get hold of the dog, I feel myself bound to record my obligations to the author of a little volume published about forty years ago, entitled, “A Treatise on Field Diversions;” by a Gentleman of Suffolk, a stanch Sportsman. It comprises within a small compass a considerable variety of matter; which, deriving force from an agreeable originality of manner, can not fail to interest every man who has any fellow-feeling on the subject. It was from a perusal of this that I first caught some general hints for a rational conduct of the dog; upon the reduction of which to practice, the system of education which I am now offering was originally founded. I had, at one time, thoughts of republishing it with the addition of notes; but, as its leading article on the mode of training (the setter) is confined entirely to the purposes of the net, an amusement in vogue during the earlier part of the author’s life, but now sunk into total disuse, it would not perhaps be relished at this time of day; nor is it otherwise consistent with the plan, or even the principle of discipline unfolded in the Kunopædia.

If I should be induced to complete a chapter which I contemplate on Breed, I shall not fail, by a liberal use of some original and important hints, to bring the reader more fully

which, the moment you perceive him beginning to swerve, you must do ; in order to teach him, for you have no other method, that he is expected to cross *under your eye*; and in order that, looking hereafter to your eye for his direction, he may learn to take the true turn, as he should have done, into the wind, and ahead of you. As he crosses you thus in error, more particularly if his temper be tender (which I hope yours is not ; for we shall have a deal more of difficulty in carrying our point), encourage him with “ Good lad ! HEY ON !—HOLD UP,” &c. ; and, as he rates off boldly towards (c), make your advance briskly to your next station (D) :—Give him the whistle ; and, as intelligibly as you can, the wave of your left hand into the wind, with “ HOLD UP THERE, good dog !” making a show of advance yourself, in order to get him forward : but, as yet he is raw, and understands not the meaning of his turn ; it depends on chance, therefore ; and he

acquainted with this “ Suffolk Sportsman.” It is under such title that he conceals his real name ; doubtless, from a proper sense of delicacy on the subject of a serious profession to which he belonged : time, however, must ere this have withdrawn him beyond the reach of squeamish censure ; and the busy historiographer of forgotten books may, without offence, be gratified by the permission of interlining a title-page with the name of the Rev. — Simons, of Kelsal, near Saxmundham, Suffolk.

takes it the wrong way: here, however, he begins to find his mistake, for it keeps him still further behind you; and so, with some little deviations occasioned by it, he makes his way to the note of “BACK*,” emphatically continued as the mark of these deviations, directly towards you at (D): contrive, if you can, to let him cross before you; if not, you must face about, and, at any rate, urge him boldly towards (E): get on to (F): give him the summons and the wave of your right hand; he remembers his mistake, turns short, and beats directly towards you: so far it is well; but get him, if possible, to pass you in front; or work with him until you accomplish it; and turn his angular approach (from E to F) into his proper and direct course (from F to G), by showing him on his way, &c. as before: from your next station (at H) let him have the summons and the signal of the hand; here he mends in his turn; which, with his head thrown round towards you, he evidently takes from your direction with a sweep:—bravo!—greet him on his approach; notice him

* I request that your attention may not be misled by the relative meaning which this word conveys to you with regard to your advance on beat. I must endeavour to simplify to him the idea to be excited by it, as being that of *general recall, from an erroneous waste of hunt, to a beat under your immediate direction.* See Vocabulary.

strongly as he passes, which you will now take care shall be ahead ; and perhaps stop him for a moment to caress him, if you have reason to conceive that it will be understood as an acknowledgment of his improvement, and then —“HEY, AWAY!” &c. towards (I). Let him be near his limits here before you move ; and then, about half-way towards your next station, give him the summons and the signal of advance as you still continue to get on to (K) ; he understands you, and increases the curve (as at I) of his return towards you, which you thus secure to have ahead. Inspirit him as he passes ; keep up his rate ; but correct his line, by giving him his proper rectangular direction (from K to L). Again sweep him round, give him the signal of advance as you move onwards towards (N), with “HOLD UP THERE, good dog!—HOLD UP!” until, by these regular advances of yours, with which he begins to act in concert, and his increasing inclination to extend his beat, his turns become longer and longer ; and, at last, feeling the permitted extent of his range as an imaginary chain, and yet willing to keep at its utmost extent, this centrifugal tendency of his, connected with your habitual recall of him, becomes converted into the true and perfect advance (as at L, M) at the end of each turn, with a regular cross about ten or fifteen yards

ahead of you, as you move forward on the line of march. If he turns out a high ranger, you will have enough to do to keep a straight line in the midst of his beats: but be sure you do not get ahead of his range, for fear of inducing the defect which, through the course of some past pages, I have been endeavouring to guard against*. It is, I own, a work of labour to complete this perfection of quartering; but if it be your luck to have an animal of capabilities to deal with, it is well worth all the toil: it will spare you the dull waste hereafter of many a

* I must not have it objected to me that, in my advance before from A to D, &c. I have incurred this risk: I consider him there as in leading-strings; and I have no other method of teaching his proper turn to windward, and of getting him on the way I want him. The manner in which these leading-strings are to be dropped, is indicated in his progress at H, I, K: and, to the regular sportsman, it is scarcely necessary to say, that when in perfection, I expect my pupil, during my advance from one imaginary station to another, as from H to K, to make the whole evolution K, L, M, N; that is to say, having passed me to the left at K, as I continue to march forward from H, and taking his own turn of further inquiry into the wind at L, he makes an advance to M, in obvious unison with mine towards N; where, finally, taking his distance under the guidance of his own sagacity (but, at first, with instant attention to the check of the whistle, and in most intelligent obedience to the signal of my hand waving him to the right), he makes his cross direct; so that by the time I am got on to K, he may be passing me, or nearly so, at N.

weary mile. By the indolence which admits inattention to it, many a fine young dog acquires the afterwards incorrigible habit of running half his ground to utter loss. Let me observe, as I pass along, that the breaking in stubble, more especially in a strong country, is extremely liable to produce a deficiency in this respect: the wind is across the course of ridges; the dog takes his range up a furrow;—to a lazy or a heedless tutor, a good deep furrow is mightily convenient to keep the line of range withal;—is checked at his permitted limit, or on his approach to a hedge; and returns, where he finds it the easiest travelling, regularly *down the same furrow*, or within a remove or two of it; and you are puzzled to know how to get on, or to teach him the measure of his distances in his advance to windward. But, I forget myself; of this, in your situation, where the genius of desolation, his brows involved in clouds, stalks uncontrolled, and where nature hath set all culture at defiance, you do not run the risk; but for some part of this reason let your lessons be given on the most unbroken ground; and where the great outlines of beauty, which we are now making the first traces of, may not be deformed and distorted by the channels and the windings of your peat-mosses.

Before I quit entirely this part of my subject, and get out of reach of my diagram, I wish to notice another error on this head of quartering: it occurs to me, from the recollection of one dog who, from an original defect in his instruction here, would uniformly take a tolerable beat on one side towards (o); and as regularly make the most ridiculous twist back again on the other (as at q): now, it is pretty obvious how this error has been created; his teacher has been one of those who want to get on too fast, and are more solicitous about getting over the ground than of hunting it: the pupil had never been duly drilled with—"To the right or left—face!"—but, taking his cue from the strides of his companion, he had learned to range off ahead too much in the diagonal (from n to o). Here he turns to the whistle given him by the tutor already in advance near (N); and, not being much out of distance, off he goes at his habitual angle towards (P); and, stretching away to the left side of the beat, arrives at (q) by the time the other is got up to (N): here he takes his proper turn into the wind; but, on receiving a summons, he perceives his increasing error in distance, and does his best to repair it immediately, by sweeping in towards his director; on whose advance towards (P) he curves off on beat to the right; where, in con-

sequence of this last sweep of return, he is again more within compass: but, by repeating from here his angular advance to his counter-range on the left, he is again thrown out, and has to repair it as before. You can not but perceive how much every tendency to this becomes a direct loss of so much useless range, in addition to the slovenly manner in which the extremities of the beat are left very imperfectly examined.

For these reasons I have somewhat minutely dwelt, but I think not unnecessarily so, upon this important and indispensable preliminary of regularly quartering. In order to facilitate its attainment, I have pointed out some errors; and have endeavoured to trace those errors to their source, as the surest means of preventing what, if once established, does not admit of correction. The impression of early habits is every thing in education; and it is in youth only that you can lay the ground-work of perfection. Nature and experience will instruct him in the performance of some of his other duties; but the habitual establishment of regulated range, the due performance of his evolutions, the quartering of his ground to all advantage, is the work of art, and must come from yourself alone. To you, therefore, I now leave it, in proportion

to your sense of its value, and after all due meditation on the incontrovertible truth of what may be received as an axiom, *viz.*—that “the dog who hunts his ground the truest, will always find the most game,” to lay this groundwork, and to labour with unabating perseverance towards its completion: and, for pity’s sake, do not you, who in the scope of country around you have so instantly at hand the superior means of creating excellence and beauty;—I say, Sir,—do not you, upon a principle of indolence, or seduced by the hope of a surer mid-day find, and by the paltry consideration of a few brace of birds more during his first season, begin by degrading your pupil into a low and despicable bog-trotter; and so cut off all the promising blossoms of *high range* for ever. If your ideas do not rise above this, I am indeed wasting paper most sadly:—but, I will hope better of you; and will, therefore, go on.

Look! to the right! see! *he finds*;—I hope, for his sake, he does not blunder up the first bird without finding, *i. e.* feeling it in his nose:—he stops; presses onward: notice him, the instant you perceive him find, with a smart “Cato! Cato! have a care!” and, in a marked and lengthened tone, “TAKE HEED!” which is henceforth to be to him a word of so much

solemnity and observance; but do not rush towards him: he stops again; and again presses more eagerly; the energies of nature are unfolding: avoid all appearance of hurry, but endeavour to get near him by degrees, in order the better to observe and awe him; and, on his every attempt to rush, call to him, still more harshly, “Have a care, Cato!—TAKE HEED! TAKE HEED!” As you challenge him thus, stop instantly; and, in order that he may witness these stops, let your approach towards him not be directly behind; but, if convenient, with a sweep somewhat ahead, or at least on one side of him; yet with caution, lest *you* tread up the game before him; which, to give full effect to this lesson, should rise from his own intemperance: he continues to press; is checked; grows hotter; hurries on, and springs; is staggered for a moment, and then chases as hard as he can. Stand still; and warn him, as he sets off, as loud and as sternly as you can, with “WARE CHASE! Cato! WARE CHASE!” Whistle him in when he has had his run out, and do not stir till he comes. If by previous mismanagement he has been made shy of return, it is an awkward circumstance, and will cost you some trouble: but there is no help for it; that return must be waited for; you can do nothing by any other means. Sit down; you will find this pro-

duce great effect; he will approach you more nearly; and, when at length within your reach, get hold of him, but without violence; and, in proportion as he may thus have been injured by ignorance, you must by conciliation and by a serious lecture of “WARE CHASE! how dare you?” &c. reclaim him to a thorough sense of error, regain his confidence, and prepare him for a submission to some degree of discipline. Where no such injury has been done to him, the regular treatment will be as follows: lay hold of him, as he arrives, with gentleness; make him DOWN at your feet; and then* lead him with reproaches, “How dare you?” &c. to the very spot where the bird rose. Here let him be sensible of the haunt, make him *crouch* and *down*, close down; pin him with your foot upon the chain, or on his neck: then, “TAKE HEED!—WARE CHASE! WARE CHASE! will you?” This word of *ware chase* must be thundered in his ears; and it must be adequately explained by the use of the whip; coolly and slowly, “WARE CHASE! how dare you?” each admoni-

* A collar and a light chain is an indispensable requisite in the business of breaking, in order to prevent an escape during discipline; which, as productive of incalculable mischief, must at all events be guarded against. The chain may be coiled around his neck, and fastened tight while on range.

tion being regularly followed by a few cuts of the whip. This first flogging on duty to be considerably within the compass of his endurance; but he must be most deliberately and awfully threatened, and kept down, for some time after the whip has ceased, close. Let him not spring to rise, even when your foot is withdrawn; but, again "DOWN," and a slight cut; until he lies, being lightly held by your foot, and at length when not held at all, under the gentle fall of the whip over him; always finishing this lesson with "TAKE HEED! and WARE CHASE then, Cato! WARE CHASE!" Caress him to rise: if his temper is good, he will show symptoms of forgiving you the beating, by some action of his stern, or by licking his lips as he lies, or by a submissive crouch towards you; and, until he clearly show these symptoms, suffer him not to rise at all. When risen, let him not spring and gallop off; but keep him in awhile, encouraging every approach of his towards a reconciliation; caress him; but still to the solemn sound of "WARE CHASE then!" which he is hereafter to understand as an awful warning against the most unpardonable of crimes. As I go along, let me introduce this as a maxim: *never part with your dog after a beating, to whatever extent, until you are convinced that you are perfect friends again.* If

you are not friends again, your beating has done mischief. Again throw him off; away he goes, more gallantly; he will do, I warrant him; but, at a short distance, check him with "Cato! BACK here!" he obeys; I am sure he will do. Well! we beat on in form. The next spring is a blunder; for it is clear he never *found* the bird: for the purpose of this discrimination, you must keep a critical eye upon his motions; he is staggered, alarmed, stops upon the challenge of "TAKE HEED there, and WARE CHASE;" and, perhaps, comes running in behind you; we have gained a point, and shall do by-and-by: cherish him, but keep him in; and take him up to the place: make him sensible of the haunt, and *down*; letting the whip again fall gently over him, but no flogging: then "HEY AWAY, good dog!" It is probable we are not far from another find: see! there he has it; stop! "Cato! have a care there!—TAKE HEED!" He is off the haunt; he hunts again; again he has them in another direction; presses on; "Cato! will you?" again in another; "TAKE HEED!" he is deaf, starts, and is convulsed for a moment; again presses more eagerly; runs riot on the haunt; is confounded, and hears nothing, until the whole brood rattles up about his ears, and away he scampers in full chase of a squeaker, that can scarcely rise above the reach of his

hopes to catch it. This is all nature ; it is not vice : it is by neglect alone at this moment, from indolence, or the wish of following up the game, that it will be converted into vice. Sir, the dog was overcome, staggered out of all self-command, by the overpowering enjoyment of the scent : but, see ! he comes back, looking like a fool, as he has found himself ; he stands aloof, partly under the consciousness of this, and partly under the dread of correction. This is a delicate point : stand *stock still* ; call him, “ Cato ! COME IN ! COME IN here ! ” On no account run after him to catch him ; you will ruin him for ever : you teach him to find out that he has got four legs, and you have only two ; a discovery which it is of some consequence to you that he should never make : if he shuffles, again call ; but in a tone not calculated to repel him : still keep your place ; stop for an hour rather than spoil him : if he will not come in without it, have recourse, as before advised, to the last expedient of “ sit down : ” in which position, if you are not previously convinced of the necessity for some other means of control than what you are likely to gain by a race after him, I leave you at your leisure, with due respect had to this duplicate ratio of legs, to solve, by any scheme of figures you are most familiar with, the difficult problem of

increasing velocities and distance; by the time you have completed which, it is probable that he may be disposed to listen to your persuasions of “Come in here!” and yield himself to your hand. Have a care here that you do not abuse his confidence; cherish him a little, but “DOWN! DOWN!” Then lead him, awe-struck, but not terrified out of his senses, to *the very spot* where he first *broke ground* from your “TAKE HEED,” and give him a very solemn, but not a severe correction, in form as above directed, duly interlarded with “TAKE HEED then!—have a care!”—TAKE HEED!” When the discipline is over, keep him in a little; and then put him on the reeking haunt; and again “TAKE HEED!—good boy!” &c.

I think I may now, Sir, venture to commit him to your care; leaving it to your own judgment to apportion the amount of future discipline, as it may become due for unperceived blunder, the burst of unguarded eagerness, or the wilful desperate wickedness of a headlong spring or chase: remembering that no slip on the first head must ever pass unchallenged and unawed; nor the shortest indulgence of the last without the most determined punishment. Under the possibility of necessities created by this last circumstance, let me note

that your whip be no foolish buttonhole bauble: let it be heavy enough to give an intelligible and adequate translation of the sternest language of command, or you are only making work for yourself.

I do not forget that you have a gun in your hand; but I have hitherto suspended its use, in order that it might not interrupt our first attention to the establishment of range: and in order to preserve more distinct what, in my want of acquaintance with the age, disposition, and state of experience of your intended pupil, I have just given as a sketch of treatment during my preliminary introduction to game; the adoption of which, or otherwise, must, with a view to the above circumstances, be left with the discretion of the tutor: again, requesting to premise that, with the exception of having his faculties thoroughly awakened, and being made eagerly alive to the sense of his proper game; with an improvement of his instinctive stop into an instant check of self-command at the challenge of "Take heed!" I would, for a variety of reasons, some of which have been before hinted at, defer all attempt at working up this stop into a confirmed point, until the object of that point can be presented to him in the game killed before him. For this purpose

we shall now proceed, and in all due form introduce him to a knowledge of his business, with the direct use of the gun.—Prepare yourself to do it with effect!

I will suppose that by these preparatory lessons, either with or without the gun, you have obtained a *stop* upon game; a pause, at least, of reflection, although not stanch. I have already said, Never rush on towards your dog the moment you perceive him find. Sir, the great secret of making a dog *stand*, is to *stop* yourself. If you have no other method of stopping, than by the chance of a race with him, you had better lay hold of his tail at first going out, and never quit it; for fear that he should get, as he has at present, the start of you by fifty yards at least. Let your attention be alive to his every show of haunt; if he grows hot, and gets on too fast, warn him with “Have a care, Cato!” and, on the first draw towards a find, arrest him with “TAKE HEED!” Keep him there as well as you can, by the warning of your voice, which by this time he ought to respect; by the signal of the hand, or whip, raised in threat; and by the certainty of a trimming, if he *springs*. Advance deliberately: if he perceives it and presses, check him and stop; and

thus, by a due modification of the language of restraint, and these necessary pauses, endeavour to get within certain shot of the game before him; and contrive that the *first bird killed to him*, be from one of these points or unconfirmed approaches, when he *actually perceives* the game before him. On no account take a chance shot at first, if it should offer as you go along, or as you are bearing down, at any distance from him. But, for example: as he rates back towards us on his last range, see! he is struck; *a stab*; and nearly within shot: stir not; and handle arms! “TAKE HEED!” he stiffens at the sound for a moment, but is in doubt; throws round his head into the wind; it wanders; his stern relaxes, shivers, and he is off; but with a brief start of manner, and a stare of expectation, which evince his conviction of game: “HAVE A CARE, Cato!” He feels the warning, and shrinks into a closer inquiry on the ground, but with his nose borne eagerly to windward for intelligence, yet can not make them out: “BACK here then, Cato!” He quits with reluctance his notions of the find ahead; but, at the second summons of “BACK here!” he bears down direct; and, in sweeping inwards, is again struck; bravo! “TAKE HEED there! TAKE HEED!” It is fortunate we have them within

him, and shall command the shot: patience, now! his head keeps still straining to his left, his stern bristles, his eyes start, and his lips quiver in convulsion; "TAKE HEED, good dog!" he has them close; ha! from your left there steals up the old cock: hold! it is not his bird; reserve your fire: confound him not; but head him to your right: he moves, turns, stops, draws: they are on the run, and up rises the whole brood: the centre bird; mark! it mounts well to level; cool and steady! now; let it take its distance; and—'tis well! your shot was, as it ought to be, decisive, and the bird is down.

Now, Sir, I have you to break, as well as your companion there. Stand stock still; look to your dog: it is probable that, from the alarm of the gun, he will stop a little; challenge him instantly with the important note of "DOWN CHARGE!" loud and fierce: I hope that a dash at the bird, in his present state of ignorance, is a vice that he has yet to learn: if not, down with your gun, for you may injure it in the exertion, and I want both your hands at liberty: run to him; disengage the bird, but do not tear it from him; let him yield it to your threat, or to its instant explanation by a tremendous cut from the implement of authority, and leave

it on the ground*. Unwind the chain around his neck, and drag him by it. Sir, I must insist on your literal compliance with my instructions here, and that you shrink not from the labour (for it is a labour) of thus dragging him back. He is a criminal now; and may readily become one of the most desperate order: this unbridled violence will lead to deeds of blood; and then—ah, Sir! they must be extinguished even before they exist, if you mean to spare yourself the slavery, and save him from the horrors of many a future laceration. Lug him then at the chain's end, and rate him all the way with “Ah! you brute!—how dare you? how dare you?” in the severest and harshest tone of reproach, in order fully to awaken the sense of crime: stagger him also with a few throttling jerks upon his collar; and thus conduct him, with every mark of your extreme displeasure, directly back to *the identical spot* where he was when the challenge of down charge was given to him, in order to make him understand this lesson. Sir, it is that of the highest importance in the whole of my system of education; the great hinge upon which all its future refinements

* We shall return to it presently, at *seek dead*, after having given the necessary correction, in order to complete the present lesson.

rest:—Sir, the *great secret* of creating a perfect *down charge*, that triumph of superior breaking, and firm bond of all dutiful obedience, is this circumstance of leading back to the *very spot*, and administering the discipline there; the object being to inculcate this idea: “I should not have stirred from this spot;” or, “from the instant of fire, I am expected to keep my ground.” If your flogging is to gratify your anger, and not to inculcate this idea, you had much better let it alone.

I have here taken the extreme case of a head-long dash at the falling bird; let me now make a transition to one of a milder nature. He perceives it fall; I hope it does not flutter, for it will interrupt and puzzle us in the lesson: it flutters; he offers to rush, and you make a dash towards the bird:—Od’s triggers and pans*! why will you set me a swearing? Did I not tell you I had you to break? I insist upon it, stand stock still: give him an instant volley of “TAKE HEED!” and “DOWN CHARGE!” And, unless there be a risk of his tasting blood, by his having actual hold of the bird, as in the

* I beg to make my acknowledgments to the celebrated author of *The Rivals*, for the appropriate use of an expression, which spares me the risk, under such flagrant provocation, of a less harmless explosion.

former case, do not rush forward: Sir, he will be apt to mistake your run for encouragement, and it will inflame his dash: thunder out the “DOWN CHARGE!” and try what that, and the crack of the whip will do, perhaps it will stop his pointing towards the bird; still keep him stopped; patience! and load at leisure. Now, Sir, here is a nice point; you must not *call him in*, for fear of laying the foundation of *blinking*; and he must not stir one inch until you get up to him: and yet, gasping as he stands, within a few yards of the bird, felt full in his nose, and perhaps quivering before his eye; under the conflict of passions, of surprise, of instinctive impulse, and the dread of correction; his nerves wound up to agony;—your first step, the very motion of your hand in loading, will give him a tendency to start: you must watch him narrowly, therefore; and, by the slowly-continued note of “TAKE HEED!” sharpened into instant harshness, and aided also by the keen crack of the whip upon the least motion to stir, keep him in check until you manage this point, and are reloaded. If he dashes and seizes,—at him directly; drag him back as before; and, on the spot where he broke ground from the fire, give him, in form and order as already prescribed, to the solemn notes of “DOWN CHARGE!—how dare you?—DOWN CHARGE, then!” a thorough

dressing. If he stops in perfect check until you get close to him, we will for this time, but for this time only, forgive him his breaking ground from our “down charge.” I am willing, Sir, to encourage his here manifest obedience to your *take heed*, because it is a great point gained under such trying circumstances: but I can by no means allow this to grow into a precedent, or permit the breach hereafter of what is to be to us the all-in-all of his ultimate perfection.

I have, I perceive, been led away by this fluttering, as well as by the headlong dash just before, which I have however thus met in the first instance, because I am apprehensive it may be what, from some previous injustice done to your pupil, you may have first to contend withal. But I will now return to what, in a state of mere unvitiated ignorance, would more probably be the treatment called for. I will suppose the bird falls unperceived; or not as an acknowledged object of pursuit, but of astonishment, from novelty only: you stand stock still; he does not obey your “Down charge!” At first he certainly can not; but, after being alarmed, probably into a brief stop by the energy of your voice and manner, yields to the mingled emotions of youthful curiosity and instinctive impulse, and makes towards the

fallen bird ; or, in obedience to that impulse, runs riot and devours the burning haunt ; or, from the mere excitement of spirits by the spring of the game and the report of your gun, perhaps giddily rattles about without much meaning. By no means suffer one single article of all this ; but attend to him ; repeat the “DOWN CHARGE !” until you fix his attention ; and then exchange it for “COME IN HERE !” In the inflamed state of his sensations, it is probable he may not attend to you ; but go on for awhile his own way : if in doing this he should happen to spring some remaining bird, challenge him fiercely with “TAKE HEED !—how dare you ?—TAKE HEED then !” and with “WARE CHASE !” if a start of such tendency should render it necessary ; and then, finally, with “COME IN HERE !” to which the most implicit obedience must be insisted on, and with patience, at any rate, be accomplished*. As soon as you have him in, let him be led in the most formal manner, at the chain’s end, under the continued admonition of “DOWN CHARGE then !—how dare you ?—DOWN CHARGE !” but without that harassing and terrifying violence of manner which has been prescribed as necessary to restrain the tendencies to blood, until you bring

* For the method of effecting this, recur to page 29.

him to the place of execution. We can not help it, Sir! we have no other method of explaining to him the full meaning of this word, which is hereafter to petrify him. Besides, he is guilty, manifestly guilty, of a neglect, if not of contempt of authority; he has turned a deaf ear to your warning, and resisted your summons of recall. On the spot, therefore, where he broke ground from your challenge upon fire, make him "DOWN!" with his head turned towards the spring of the birds; pin him, as before directed, and give him, to the tune of "DOWN CHARGE!" most solemnly and deliberately urged over him, such an explanation, engraven in stroke (as an artist would express it) upon his back and sides as, with a view to the urgency of the case, evinced by the amount of his disobedience, may most effectually open his perceptions to the inflexible truth of this corollary, that, if he means to sleep in a sound skin, he must know his post, and keep at it in future.

I know, Sir, that, to a novice in the business of the field, or to a man who never witnessed a review of regular troops, the beauty of a perfect *down charge* appears wonderful. I do recollect the time when I was more struck with it than the animal before me: but, believe me, by an undeviating recurrence to this discipline *on the*

spot, by never once suffering your dog to find an excuse to trifle from it, and by standing stock still yourself,—for there is a great deal in this, and if you move the dog will assuredly take his cue from you,—it is much more easily effected than you would suppose. You will remember then, that the object to be attained is, a dead stop at the instant of fire, upon the spot where the dog chances to be at the time, whether that fire be to a prepared point, or not: you are fixed; so is he; his eye directed towards you, and waiting your commands; at first it will take its more natural direction towards the fallen bird; but, at any rate, there he is to remain fixed, under a continued memento of “DOWN CHARGE!” in a lengthened tone of voice, as a check upon emotions excited by your action of loading: *when reloaded, pause a little, in order to teach him patience: then “COME IN HERE, Cato!” which he should obey, in a direct line to you, still unmoved from your place; when he will receive from you the commission, and be conducted to the next lesson of *Seek dead*. To this previous return towards you he will at first more readily yield submission than, it is probable, he may be inclined to do in a more advanced state of knowledge; when,

* See its more explicit description in the *Vocabulary*.

having waited your commands until he hears the notice for seek dead, or until you begin to move towards the bird, he will make his way more direct to it: but by no means suffer this, until you have him in such a thorough state of discipline as to be trusted near the bird alone.

I would here observe, that it is a very general practice, even with what are esteemed high-broken dogs, if surprized when at a distance by some casual shot, and it is their conduct also when hunted in company, for the dogs most remote from the point to come galloping in upon fire, with a sweep behind you: nor is this always the result of their natural inclination to come in for their share of a snap at the game that may be down; but you will hear them actually summoned to it by the whistle of their *mis*-leader: and many a bird of a well-broken covey is thus rattled up without your having a chance at it. The distinguished preference due to the other method needs not be pointed out. But it is not so much the loss of this chance that I am disposed to take exception at: it produces mischief; your attention is engaged in marking some of the other birds, or in reloading, or perhaps in gossiping; and those broken birds, as your dog scampers down the wind, rise before him *unchallenged*; which

lays the foundation of *heedlessly blundering up upon beat* ; a thing never to be suffered without the sharpest notice, nor indeed with impunity.

But I perceive that I am wandering ; and it is proper that I should return to the more regular detail of instruction. I left you in the act of giving the correction necessary to produce a perfection which effectually precludes these errors. I beg to refer you to the manner of that correction ; which, with a view to the effect intended, you will by this time begin to perceive is somewhat material. You have just finished the *q.s.* of absolute flogging ; the dog close down ; your foot upon his neck, or on the chain ; and the whip falling lightly down upon him to the now softened tone of “ DOWN CHARGE ! ” Withdraw your foot ; if he springs, again “ DOWN ! ” and a cut : repeat this *until he lies from the sense of awe*, and close ; the whip continuing to fall unimpressively over him, and you at his head : draw back a little from him ; if he follows upon crouch, it is well, as a token of conciliation ; but he must finally be *close* : if he offers to rise, again advance to him, and “ Down ! ” move a little on one side, and then upon the other ; your eye in the most determined manner fixed on his : do this until he will let you walk round him to the note of

“DOWN!” and still under the gentle fall of the whip: circle him a few times:——“Now, what the devil is all this tedious formality for?” you cry; “why, we have a bird down, and we shall lose it.”——**** * you and the bird too, Sir!—do not interrupt me! otherwise I shall give you the whip as well as him. I say, Sir, it is to enforce command, and to create obedience: if you do not produce this effect, you are fatiguing yourself, and torturing your dog to no purpose, or worse than none. It is only by thus solemnly lecturing, that you can explain the full meaning of all this flogging†. You may flog until your

* I place these stars to occupy a blank, which I request the reader to fill up with any word he likes best, most strongly to express my just provocation at being interrupted in so interesting a moment. If he should happen to fill it with one which may shock the delicacy of his own ears, I beg to say, that I do not hold myself amenable. Be that, however, as it may, I do hope, before we part, he will be induced to think that, even on this head, I have made him ample amends.

† There is an anecdote afloat in the navy, of an officer, most deservedly of the highest rank in it, not long ago deceased, which applies so well to this point of discipline, that I beg permission for its introduction. He was a most judicious disciplinarian, but somewhat too fond of his own oratory; which, upon every occasion of punishment on board his ship, he never lost the opportunity of displaying in the form of a preliminary lecture, generally bordering on the tedious. It happened, one day, that a black sailor was brought to the gangway, and stripped ready for the boatswain. The captain

heart, as well as your arm, aches with its severity; but, if you do not awaken his reflections as well as his feelings, and teach him thus, through the sense of awe, to seek a reconciliation with you; if you suffer him to escape from you, or to rise and set off when he likes, the moment it is over; be assured you have only been doing mischief: he will soon improve upon the suggestions of self-will, and bid you defiance in the open field; and then all is over. I say, Sir, circle him a few times thus down; there is magic in it; we must subdue him thus; draw a little off, in the course of these circles; the whip still ready to rise, and the note of “Down charge!” continued: stop, two or three yards from him, full in front; his eye still rivetted by

as usual attended, and had just begun one of these homilies, when the poor fellow, with a singular shrug of the shoulders, as if he already felt the cat upon them, and with a rueful look of drollery in his countenance, thus bespoke his commander: —“If you floggum, floggum! If you preachum, preachum! But don’t floggum and preachum too, massa!” This address had the instant effect of stopping the sermon, amidst the unsuppressed smiles of the surrounding officers: whether he was equally fortunate in getting rid of the other part of the punishment, the record does not say. Now, of the effect of the latter, upon the animal whose irregularities it was here intended to correct, I own, I have my doubts: but, with regard to the other, whose tuition I am directing, I wish to say, that you must “floggum and *preachum* too,” if you mean to do any good; and that the latter is, perhaps, the least dispensable part of the ceremony.

yours ; and now deliberately reload. If the motions in loading excite him to spring up and be off, again “DOWN” with him ; the object being to compel, and to familiarize him, to bear this action, in patient expectation, at any distance : you are loaded ; pause a moment ; caress and encourage him ; but still to the tune of “DOWN CHARGE !” and then “Come in !”—yes, close in, as you now proceed direct to your bird. Give him the wind at some distance to leeward ; and then, in a marked tone of voice, “SEEK DEAD ! SEEK DEAD, good dog !” Let him find the scent ; your whip ready, and you within reach of him : if he finds, keep him steady with “TAKE HEED, good dog !”—There lies the bird ; he sees it ; if he offer to dash, meet the attempt with a severe cut, and make him attend in patience to the conclusion of the ceremony, with the solemn dirge of “WARE DEAD ! will you ? DEAD !” Take it up gently ; caress him, and present it to him : if he attempt to snap, awe him with the whip, and lay it down before him ; but do not toss it to him, lest he should mistake the matter for insult, and be discouraged from acknowledging a dead bird : and from the persevering study of this important lesson of *seek dead*, in which we are about to give him some further instruction, let him amuse himself by turning over the bird with

his nose, to the tune of "DEAD! WARE DEAD!" but no mouthing. For the sake of encouragement only, just at first, I am permitting this amusement; but remember it is no part of my system to suffer a dog ever to touch a bird: no! the generous triumph of a conscious *find dead* is all. None of your poaching fetch-and-carry kind of business, which you will hear so much extolled by some people, for a pupil of mine: it leads to a million of mischiefs. Besides, I wish to take my game home handsome; in condition such as may render it acceptable to a friend: I would not affront him with the apparent refuse of my kitchen, as though just rescued from the tousellings of some turnspit of a terrier, attending in his extra capacity of quill-plucker to the scullion. When your dog is sufficiently gratified, take the bird up gently, and pocket it in his view. Sit down; caress, and talk to him a little, with "Good dog!" interlarded with a mild "TAKE HEED, good boy!" &c. Be not too lazy, or too proud, to sit and *talk* with him a little thus; for, exclusive of its contributing to mark to him this moment as the end of his pursuit, this familiarity wonderfully conciliates the affections of a young dog: and the affections must be conciliated, if you expect a submission to your commands, and an endurance of discipline from your hand. N. B. A

morsel of biscuit, or of something made purposely more agreeable, in the form of coarse gingerbread, from your pocket, on this occasion, or on that of a thoroughly obedient, or tolerably obedient, “Down charge,” may not be amiss: it furnishes you with an additional means of expressing to him your approbation; of which he ought to be rendered fully as sensible as of your whip. I have seen the best effects produced by a little treat of this nature.

In the above, I have been stating a case of an immediate find after the shot: I will now vary it, with a view of proceeding to a more complicated lesson. You bring your dog from the necessary discipline of *down charge*, and put him to *seek dead*. He acknowledges the haunt, but he is off again: ha! here are the feathers from the fall, but the devil of any bird is here: —“O!” you begin to cry, “confound this tedious system of discipline and down charge; I have lost my bird.” Be it so: you will get twenty more, in consequence of it, before the season is at an end. But, stop!—you have not lost your bird; he again touches: “SEEK DEAD, good dog!” again he has it. Now, Sir, here presents itself a glorious opportunity of giving him the first rudiments of another great and valuable lesson, that of *footing out his game*. I know

I have heard it, most coxcomically, called *poaching*, by some ignorant advocates of the flourishing train of your stabbing, backing, brainless, mechanical boobies; from whom (for how is it possible?) you are not to expect any originality of charm: they have only been cut out to a pattern; who, in the course of their unmeaning caperings are ever more on the look-out for a point than for the game; and before whom, if a bird crawls away to die, a few yards out of the direction of its fall, and you leave it but a few minutes to *cool*, it is all over; you must never expect to see it more. Still less must you expect this, if it should fall to a casual shot: they come sweeping in perhaps; but being permitted to dawdle about, or worse, while you are charging, all their solicitude is over: in vain you would put them upon a busy close inquiry after the dead bird; they do not understand a word of what you mean; it is a language they have never been taught: but, with your first step of advance from reloading, away they go off at score: perhaps, too, by a thundering exertion of lungs, to the infinite composure of some companions of the deceased, probably not far distant, are brought back to stare; and again, with your first motion, to rattle off upon fresh beat, and leave you, storming with vexation, to nose it out as well as you can

yourself. I call this therefore a *valuable* lesson; because it not only insures to you the means of never losing a bird, but because it inoculates your pupil with the most valuable of all qualifications, with SAGACITY; with the faculty of *perceiving the progress* of a haunt, which these showy fools will never know a syllable of till doomsday; with every thing which is hereafter to be admired in the exertion of intellect; with every thing which is to be obtained by the advantages of design over the contingencies of accident.

But to your dog. Keep close to him, on his left; your right hand being at liberty to caress or check him: encourage him with "HOLD UP, good dog!" or, as he presses, "HAVE A CARE*!" Give him time enough, and let him make every thing out himself: if he loses the haunt, take him entirely round the spot, but near you; let the prepared hold of your gun, and the eagerness of your eye, express the business of inquiry; it is a language he will very soon understand: do not you give it up, nor stop, as tired; for he will catch the infection, and have done: keep moving: if you do stop, still talk to him with "Good dog, SEEK DEAD! SEEK DEAD!" You

* See Vocabulary, at *Have a care*.

must not think the time lost: no! that is not right: I should have said, well employed in this great lesson. If it were two hours, you do your dog injustice, if you do not give it to him. You will be surprised, *experto crede!* how much a determined perseverance on your part, for two or three first lessons on this head, will insure to you the most resolute continuance on his part in this important business of working out a retrieve for ever after. Again take him round to the last place of challenge; he touches again, but cannot make it out: look sharp, for you have it close to you somewhere; ay, have a care, or you will tread on it! see! there it lies, crouched on its side beneath that withering tuft of heath, and with its eye twinkling, in act to spring. Now, I have you to break a little: fie! how carelessly you trail your gun! did I not tell you *handle arms*? Let not your dog be fooled by the possible chance of a flutter out of reach, before you get a decided level: call to him, "Cato! SEEK DEAD!—COME IN!" draw off a little; and give him the wind, if possible, that he may find, and be firmly stanch. Coolly now, and deliberately! you have many things to recollect, to do him all justice: if the want of air will not any how furnish you with a dead find, keep him close with "TAKE HEED!" in an eager but solemn tone: he will readily catch

your perceptible increase of attention: get directly ahead of the bird; your gun in the left hand, ready (observe, I do not admit it to be cocked), and your whip in the other, or in a situation where you may immediately command it. Pause; and, awing him into firmness with "TAKE HEED!" extend your right hand, stooping, until you grasp the bird; but no dash; no, not of the last few inches from it: and if such attempt should be made by him (for by this time he can not but perceive the object), thump let the but-end of your gun come down upon his nose; have a care that it be not some inches higher; or rather let a tremendous cut of the whip, accompanied with the fiercest challenge of "WARE DEAD!" restrain his violence.

It is not probable, however, that your bird, evidently, from its lively appearance as it lies, only winged or staggered, will bear all this close approach: it springs under your hand, and flutters off. Untutored flesh and blood can not support this. Endeavour to arrest him with your loudest thunder of "WARE CHASE!—WARE DEAD!" and coolly wait, your gun now cocked and ready, in hope of the extension of this flutter, or perhaps flight, to an easy distance, for a shot which you can not miss: but it is weak, and flutters down; gets on foot a little

way ; again makes an effort to rise, but can not keep on wing : this is a hard trial of our pupil : he is after it ; stop him, if it be possible, with the united volley of “ WARE CHASE !—WARE DEAD !” and the keen crack of admonition from your whip. I can not permit you to run after him, while there remains one possibility of his recovering his recollection, or of his stopping to your threats ; because it is a pledge of your future command over him : but if nothing will do, and he should actually seize, to him instantly !—but recollect your gun was cocked as the bird sprang ; secure, or leave it ; otherwise a stumble may cost you or your dog a limb *. And now drag him back, with every mark of your displeasure, in the precise form already prescribed at page 38, to the place of this second find, where the bird rose beneath your hand : here pin him down, with his nose on the very spot, and give him such a dressing, as may be a lasting memorial of what you hereafter expect from him : then, without suffering

* Let not this caution be deemed obtrusive or superfluous. A part of my purpose has all along been to break in the breaker ; I have, therefore, occasionally interspersed some checks of this nature, from a thorough conviction of the necessity of such hints, and of the importance of establishing habits which supersede the dangers arising from heedless dashing.

him to rise of himself, lead him by the chain again to the bird; which, agreeably to former directions, you are supposed to have disengaged from him, and left upon the ground, in a situation, certainly, after having been under his gripe, utterly incapable of rising more. If the bird be not now entirely dead, kill it, and lay it down before him; bring him “DOWN” to it; challenge him to his face with the crime of disobedience to your warning of “WARE CHASE! —WARE BIRD!—how dare you?” and in order that his ears may be more open to it hereafter, let the pauses of your lecture be duly filled with an explanatory cut: keep him close; take up the bird, toss it to his nose, and dare him to touch it, with “WARE DEAD then! will you? —DEAD!” compel him to bear this when your foot is withdrawn from the chain: this death-song being studiously given in the harshest tone of reproach; thereby inculcating a sense of shame, to which, if he be of breed, you will find him exceedingly sensible; and by which, upon this point of duty, he is hereafter to be held, as much as by immediate awe. If in the tumult of his spirits during the pursuit, and his eagerness to catch, he has turned savage and has broken the game,—if he has actually torn, perhaps disembowelled it,—I am most sorry for

it; because I have to call upon you, in justice to him, to raise your arm in vengeance, to shut up every avenue of mercy in your bosom, and let your whip, to the fierce challenge of “WARE BIRD!—WARE DEAD!” as it lies despoiled before him, tear him to pieces. We can not help it, Sir: he has tasted blood; and the thirst for blood must be extinguished on the instant, or he is undone for ever: there is no alternative, but a halter; unless it be your purpose to become the associate and accomplice of a foul-mouthed, furious, bloody-minded ruffian, and prowl about a country, to feed the hawks with his offal, or hang them up in rags for scare-crows.

Well! but he did not sieze: he paused, he stopped to the united efforts of your voice and whip, and there he stands: now, here is a case of some delicacy: if he has actually *found* after the flutter, and if he be fairly on point with the game in his nose, you must not lead him back from it on any account, lest you lay the foundation of blinking, one of the worst of all defects: but if he be only on stop to your call, provided you can contrive to come up with him before he has actually found, you must, notwithstanding this tendency to obedience, lead him

back to a lecture and correction, on the very spot where the bird fluttered from your hand ; very formal, but moderated with judgment, in order to impress a due submission to “WARE CHASE !” and then again follow up the bird as before.

But you had your second shot at the bird : down or not down, stand still, and volley out instantly the challenge of “DOWN CHARGE !” If you have blundered and missed, and the bird be totally gone, exchange it for “WARE CHASE !” to check what he has by this time most likely been roused to ; and, waiting until you get him in as well as you can, give him a thorough dressing* and lecture, to the *down charge*, as before directed.

If you have killed, and he has dashed to this second fall of the bird, at him instantly ! he

* I must here admonish you that, on this as well as every similar occasion, you do not go violently to work with the whip, to flog away upon the carcass of your companion the vexations arising from your own errors in shooting. Let even-handed justice mete out unto him only the measure of punishment due to his delinquency. A dog will have quite enough to answer for on the score of his own heedlessness and intemperance, without being called on to expiate the blunders of his tutor.

has broken from you in open violation of every form of authority so studiously presented to him; he is now a daring sinner: tug him therefore back to the spot whence the bird rose, in form, as just alluded to, and let the amount of his punishment be proportioned to his violence committed on the game.

We keep the bird alive, in idea, a little longer, for the sake of again bringing him up after it. Let him find; it is not yet dead; but assuredly crippled beyond the risk of another spring: your whip therefore in hand, keep him steady with “TAKE HEED!” Deliberately, as before ordered, stoop to grasp the bird: if he should dare to dash, meet him with the keenest cut of vengeance, and the fierce challenge of “DEAD! —WARE DEAD!” The bird, I perceive, is still lively in your hand; a slight blow or two of the back of its head upon the butt of your gun is the shortest and easiest method of despatching it; do this, and then lay it on the ground: it flutters for awhile violently, and perhaps bolts a little: it is a severe trial of him this, but he must be brought to endure it: be ready, therefore, with the sceptre of authority, to check the slightest attempt to dash, and let the stern and awful notes of “DEAD! —WARE DEAD! —WARE

BIRD!" conclude the solemnity*. Accuse me not of cruelty for thus, with seeming coolness, contemplating these last convulsive quiverings of expiring life! My mind is otherwise occupied,—fixed on the important object of teaching the virtue of forbearance. Ah, Sir! in this curiously complicated scene of things around us, the present is by no means a solitary instance in which the outlines of moral beauty become blended with those of great deformities.

Under impressions arising from which reflection, as furnishing in the interval a not unuseful occupation to the mind, we will, if you please, now sit down, and ruminate and rest. You are by this time, I guess, somewhat prepared for such repose, and so in sooth am I; for I have felt myself, as it were, called upon to make some effort to lead our pupil——ha! he is gone!—"CATO! COME IN here!" Do not suffer him to trifle off, while we are seated, but "COME IN!—DOWN here! DOWN!" I say, Sir, I have endeavoured to take him with some regularity, although with numberless omissions upon minor points, over the general heads of this practical

* I refer to his conclusive treatment in taking up the game, &c.—P. 49, 50.

system of ethics; in which you will perceive, as with the philosophers of old, that *TO BEAR AND TO FORBEAR make up the sum of every virtue.

Thus far have I deemed it expedient, with an ideal presence, to attend you, step by step, in order to trace with more effect, the precise outlines of that system by which the conduct of your pupil, from his first approach up to the final possession of his game, is hereafter to be regulated. I have exhibited to you the principle of obedience sufficiently exemplified, and have endeavoured to give you a clear idea of the method of enforcing it under each of the general heads of duty. In doing this, I have put into your hands a clue by which you will henceforth be able to manage him yourself; and I shall now claim the privilege of withdrawing a personal attendance, which I conceive to be no longer necessary to either, whilst, in the more convenient form of an epistolary address, I shall hereafter, in a desultory way perhaps, but not without a purpose of more extensive utility to

* *Ἀνεχον και απεχον.*—EPICT. MOR.

you, proceed with a discussion of some of the minor parts of practice, which, in the above comprehensive view of general duty, I have purposely avoided being led off by, as well as of other collateral points which are closely connected with the subject.

Such form of address will be more immediately convenient, if the idea of throwing these notions into a shape fitted for the public eye, which you have so much urged upon me, and which you are pleased to attach so much importance to, as “the means of presenting the sportsman with somewhat like a rational direction of his conduct, of which he is at present so lamentably in want,” should ever be realized.

With such more general object, therefore, indefinitely in view, yet retaining, as being more agreeable to me, the form of that familiar address which I have assumed to you, I shall, as occasion may furnish leisure or inclination, proceed to the further elucidation of my subject, with an addition of materials, which it is probable will never assume all the advantages of form that might have been given to them; but which, in whatever may concern a well-grounded education upon each “particular of duty,” it shall

be my endeavour to leave as little imperfect as may be.

Upon this principle, and with a direct view to the furtherance of our purpose, and the readier advancement of knowledge, I have now to notice one very general, but very important, error in the business of breaking, which impedes instruction sadly: the tutor is never sufficiently careful of his own language; that is, to express uniformly by the same word the precise idea which it is his intention to convey: he is betrayed into this by laziness or by passion, and he puzzles, instead of instructing his pupil. It would be a waste of argument to insist on the necessity of precision upon this point; and I shall make no apology, therefore, for submitting to his acceptance the subsequent arrangement, in the form of a Vocabulary.

To the sportsman whose tongue is already familiar with a different phraseology, I am not offering this, in order to give him the trouble of subverting his habits. Different dialects will obtain in different counties*, and a man very

* For instance: whether the fixed arrest on point is conveyed by *take heed!* *to ho!* *yo ho!* &c. is a matter of indifference: but I must decisively object to the unnecessary

readily falls in with that which is of most general intelligence in the country where he resides, or in the societies which he may occasionally mingle with. The mere phrase, the form of the rule, is of no consequence, provided the rule itself, in the uniformity of its terms, be clearly defined by the one, so as to be perfectly comprehended by the other. One "part of speech" only do I presume to enter my most decided protest against. I can not admit the tutor to take his language, any more than his precepts, from the general rude associates of the kennel. I am endeavouring to breed up the animal before him as the companion of a gentleman; and I must not have his ears assailed, and his attention confounded, by a torrent of language which is utterly incompatible with that character. I have, therefore, to remind the tutor that he do not permit his tongue to run riot through all the eloquence, however powerful, of Ernulphus*. All that he can possibly

confusion arising from the use of both. I have preferred the former, as furnishing, in a variation of the sound of the two words, the more or less of meaning, which the perfect command necessary on this head may call for.

* The unlearned reader, if he think it worth while, which I can assure him it is not, may consult the record of this language, as handed down to us by the very learned historian of the Shandy family.

have to say to his dog may be conveyed in less exceptionable terms; and there is no occasion for blasphemy to render himself intelligible. A powerful explosion of voice, a sternness of tone, and a fierceness of manner, are necessary to give due effect to a lecture, or to warn the offender, on the instant, of the precise point of duty which is infringed upon, and for which he is to meet the certainty of punishment: but, in the burst of these explosions, "in the very whirlwind of his passion," I have to entreat that he will "keep the door of his lips;" otherwise, under the strong excitement of that perpetual control which is necessary to be held over the sallies of the pupil, he will become "clothed in curses."

THE
VOCABULARY.

COME IN;—COME IN HERE,—or, *The Whistle*;—
is to keep him in at setting off, or to bring
him in from any distance upon beat imme-
diately, for some purpose to be indicated
to him when come in, so as to put him upon
beat elsewhere, &c. The abstract meaning,
at all times to be conveyed, being *the check
of self-will*.

BACK ;—BACK HERE;—must never be con-
founded with the above: its meaning is,
that he is *to hunt* back to try his ground
over again: adhere to it, and he will soon
begin to understand it in this sense, much
to the advantage of his own intellect: the
whistle, with the wave of the hand, is, in
quartering, synonymous. See Note, p. 21.

HEY AWAY ;—HEY ON, *good dog!*—is a general
encouragement to general beat.

WARE HARE ;—WARE MUTTON ;—are checks of decisive recall from most unlawful pursuits: for the former of which, if admitted, the tutor ought to be flogged; and, for the latter, the pupil hanged. Observe, the *ware* is to have the full broad sound of the south: it fills the mouth nobly.

WARE LARK ;—a summons to break off the pupil from trifling upon a worthless haunt; which, during the obvious rising of the bird before him, he is to be challenged with, in order to rouse him to a higher sense of discernment and more dignified pursuits*. If this trifling should amount to drawing into point, let him be shamed out of the practice by a harsh tone of reproach, by a smack of the whip, and by a show on the part of the tutor of an advance on beat, with *Hold up!* &c.

* On the moors, where the small heath-bird or ling-bird disturbs the attention of a young dog, the phrase of *ware bird* is in pretty general use for this purpose. It obtains too, I believe, in some other countries: but, as I have a superior use for that phrase presently, I beg to supersede its meaner application altogether, and to offer the *ware* LARK! for it, upon all occasions. In the south this will, nine times in ten, denote the very object of interruption; and it will be better elsewhere to admit the misnomer, than to puzzle the pupil with distinctions in natural history.

GONE! GONE;—a summons to be delivered in a quick and cheerful tone of voice, accompanied with a wave of the hand, in show of advance on beat by the tutor, to call off the pupil from lingering away his time upon the workings of an old foil, when, from having observed the birds steal off or otherwise, it is clearly manifest that the game is gone. In the advanced stages of education, when the dog has acquired some discrimination, and has got some notion of the progress of a haunt, this may be applied with no small advantage to the cultivation of intellect; but with a younger subject, whose business it is never to rattle away from the smallest chance of find, it is not quite sound practice, and is advisable only on the very spot where the bird has just been killed to him.

HOLD UP, *good dog!*—HOLD UP;—an encouragement when he appears to find, or when he touches upon game, to get onward; or, to break him off from a waste of time upon a false haunt.

HAVE A CARE;—a caution when you perceive him getting on too fast upon a find, or when he presses rashly the advance on point.

During this advance, as you bring him up under close command, a slight smack or click of the tongue, such as is used to urge the speed of a horse, immediately succeeded by a low double whistle, or shaken note from the lips, whose modulations may keep his attention engaged and regulate his motions, will sufficiently express the alternate notices of advance and check; and on your near approach to game, inas-much as they create less disturbance, should be substituted in the place of the two last phrases.

TAKE HEED*;—a caution or challenge of still stronger import, at sound of which he ought to be instantly on full stop,—stanch. This authoritative challenge must be given whenever you perceive him, by his action, so close as to be in the instant risk of a spring; likewise upon every occasion of blundering up a bird, whether from heedlessness or accident; and the use of the whip, when called for in either of these cases, must be invariably interlarded with it, as being a word with which the idea of this said whip is ever after to be inse-

* See Note, p. 64.

parably and formidably connected. Let me observe here that, for this as well as other notices of restraint, the keen crack of the whip is to be accepted as an expressive synonym. It conveys more intelligibly to the pupil's ear, than can be done by the feeble paraphrase of the most powerful voice, what he has to expect for disobedience. For which reason, if there were no other, the thong should not be too light, and the lash kept in smacking order.

WARE CHASE;—the challenge for the crime committed; to be vollied out upon the instant with all the powers of voice which the tutor is master of; and to the tune of which, re-thundered in his ears, he must have this vice, and every tendency towards it (there is no other method), most effectually flogged out of him.

DOWN CHARGE;—the word of command instantly after *fire*; to which I do expect from the pupil, in manner already defined, (p. 37) his perfect and dutiful obedience: whether the fire be to a point or not, I do insist upon it: if he be ranging off at a distance, and you have a casual shot, still

I do require it of him*. In every view of utility, as well as of beauty, it forms the tutor's triumph. Be it yours, therefore, invariably to arrest him with it, even at the utmost limit of his range, fixed and immovable, his eye eagerly bent on you, watching, with impatience watching, the motions of your reloading, but still waiting the signal of the hand or voice, to be given *before you stir* from the spot (if you move, the charm is over), as the warrant for his coming in direct for your further orders.

SEEK DEAD;—a notice for eager close inquiry after what he may have seen fall, or for what he is to take your word for having seen. This notice to be issued as you bring him up and put him on the haunt, and repeatedly sounded as you again and again recall him over the ground, with *Back here, back!*—SEEK DEAD—*good dog!* and as you continue to move along with him and keep him up to the unwearied search; in order to fix his attention to what he is never to

* As the very cardinal point of duty, its merits, as well as the mode of creating perfection in it, have been amply and studiously indicated (p. 37 to 49); to the re-perusal of which I request explicitly to refer the reader.

give up, and to engage the most determined perseverance on his part to make it out. One bird thus found, after half an hour of such undefeated inquiry, is inestimable, in the certainty with which you thus, for ever after, establish *the retrieve*.

WARE BIRD;—a check from a dash upon sight, or upon flutter, of a bird which he thus conceives within the reach of an instant gripe*.

DEAD;—**WARE DEAD**;—a check against a similar dash or snap, or against mouthing or foiling the game, as found by himself, or as laid down before him, in defiance of his attempt to touch it. This note of *dead!* will be converted, as he advances in tuition, into a signal of conscious mutual triumph; whilst, with a deliberate pause on the part

* If a dash upon the ground, or snap at a bird struggling to rise, were never excited, excepting in consequence of *fire*, this phrase, in the sense here applied, might be spared, and the use of the next phrase, of *ware dead*, might be extended as a general check upon this lawless attempt to seize: but I have seen manifest advantages, in the pause of awakened discernment, from thus keeping perfectly distinct the idea of restraint from the dash at a bird exposed to his eye, or in the act of fluttering to rise, and that conscious forbearance over the dead game which is the subject of the next and last commandment.

of the tutor, inductive of forbearance upon that of the pupil, you gently take up the bird, smooth down its feathers to his nose, but *Ware snap!*—caress him with “DEAD! good dog!—DEAD!” and pocket it at leisure in his view.

DOWN;—In point of order, perhaps, this ought to have taken precedence of the whole, as forming so material a part of the preparatory treatment of the pupil, even before you take him into the field; yet, as being of much general use, may not improperly come in at the conclusion. It is the word of imperious command, under which he is to crouch close, and that if possible without being held down, whilst he is receiving discipline, or under lecture. It is of most immediate use under the head of *Down charge*; and of general application, as an instant call of check upon any sudden violence.

In the above catalogue of terms, I have purposely avoided the introduction of any which are not already warranted by what I conceive to be the best and most generally established authorities; and you will not therefore, I believe, meet with any thing in it with which you are

not, as a sportsman, in some measure acquainted: it is in the precision of their application alone that you will find any thing of novelty; and in this respect I must rely upon a previous docility on your part, most attentively, to break in yourself. Its further amplification, as may be called for by circumstances, must be produced by the varying tones and sudden breaks of the voice; an extension of language which will be wonderfully well understood by the dog. For which purpose a variety of little trains of subsidiary words, or colloquial expletives, may be occasionally called in: such as *Good dog*;—*good boy*, &c.; or, to be set in the opposite key, *Will you then?*—*How dare you?*—*Ah, you brute!* &c.: but as they do not refer to specific duties, and may be considered only as the vehicles of these tones or breaks by which the various degrees of approbation or of reproof are to be conveyed, I have not admitted them in form, from a disinclination thus indefinitely to encumber my vocabulary.

Of the whole of this class of words, however, I would recommend to the tutor to be as sparing as possible; and that they be not permitted to obtrude themselves so conspicuously upon the ear, as to rob the direct word of command of the strong and marking emphasis which is due

to it, or to create a confusion on the subject of the precept intended to be inculcated; avoiding, as much as may be, all circumlocutory discourings and admonitions, and seeking rather to confine himself within the habitual limits of the above nomenclature; which, with a view to the clear separation of duties and explicit communication by the voice, I have, not without some consideration, thrown together as of general use, and which I now offer for your adoption.

In affixing precision to the terms of this vocabulary, I have, in fact, combined the rules also of conduct; exhibiting thereby a summary of duties, which will have the recommendation of brevity, at least: on which account it is perhaps the only part of these sheets that you will peruse a second time; yet, without the illustrations they contain, in the clear exemplification of precepts, you would not, I am convinced, sufficiently have understood my meaning. To the detail of those illustrations therefore I have now to request a retrospect; by the lights reflected from which, you will be enabled the better to make an estimate of my system; of the relation of its parts and of its principles: awaiting the due appreciation of which, by your reducing it to practice, I have only to add a few general maxims, or rules of conduct, by way of

touching some points which have not been within the scope of these elucidations, or of more completely enforcing some leading principle. Like other institutes of more serious import, I shall throw them into the form of negations; to the peremptory tone of which, if you should be disposed to start objections, you will be pleased to recollect, that the subject is of a nature upon which a man may readily enough claim the privilege of being a little *dogmatical*.

MAXIMS*.

NEVER let your dog have a will of his own: from the first moment of his entering upon what, in the phrase of your universities, may fairly enough be termed his *course of humanities*, he is to take the direction of his every action from you.

* TA ΔΟΓΜΑΤΑ. ETYM. Δακος a δακνω, mordeo; Anglicè, *dogge*; teste illustrissimo Casaubone; et ματτω pro μασσω, *ferio*; q. d. *dog-flogging*: imperiosâ quippe voce enuntianda, manaque magistri inscribenda, *Axiomata*.

NEVER go out without a whip, if you dislike the trouble of flogging. The conviction of its presence will supersede much of the necessity of its use; and if you leave it at home to-day, you will find a threefold call for its employment to-morrow. Moreover, “it must needs be that offences come;” and this is the mildest mode of punishing the offender. A hedge-stake is but an awkward kind of thing wherewithal to preserve the due relation between correction and crime: and, in a country where “the rarity of so valuable a piece of timber” puts it out of your immediate reach, you may incur the risk, from some unguarded spring to restrain a furious dash on the part of your pupil, of fracturing his ribs by a kick, or of bending a gun-barrel over his brain-case.

NEVER pass a blunder unnoticed, nor a fault unpunished.

NEVER administer the punishment without an endeavour on your part to make him comprehend the nature of his offence: *e. g.* of *Take heed!* for a spring, whether accidental, heedless, or vicious; of *Ware chase!* where such daring unpardonable crime has

been committed ; or of *Down charge!* where his refusal to understand this great point of duty may render correction expedient, &c.

NEVER carry this punishment beyond the law of all endurance, so as to scare him out of his senses : let it be ample, but regulated with judgment, according to temper. If upon any occasion you have carried it a stroke or two too far, take still more especial care to *keep him down under lecture* so much the longer, until he has time to recollect himself, and to find out that his only means to be at liberty again is to be *friends* with you.

NEVER avenge upon your dog your own errors in shooting. Neither let the giddy triumph of some fortunate shot atone for the heedless rattle by which he may have driven the bird within your reach, nor for any lawless violence by which he may further assist you in laying hold of it. Give up the shot to a certainty, with a young dog, rather than give any encouragement to this heedless rattle ; and although it were to secure a cock-pheasant, disabled for flight by a tip upon the wing, and on the full run

for the chance of escape into cover, command yourself, and lend not your countenance, and still less your example, to the unbridled licentiousness with which he may rush forward to render by his gripe all escape impossible. It is not by keeping a firm restraint upon all such lawless dashing at a bird before him, but by a slovenly neglect, and the want of sufficient perseverance in the great primary lesson of "footing out," as connected with "seek dead," that a dog will have an extinguisher put upon his resolution to retrieve, or that he will ever incur the risk of sinking into the worst of all possible defects, the forfeiture of his game. I have already taken occasion to observe, that the dog who hunts his ground the truest, will always find the most game; and I would here add, that the dog who approaches it when down, under a skilful reserve, will in the end be found most effectually to do his part of the business in securing it.

NEVER, in fine, let him perceive that the possession of the game is your chief object in the pursuit. *Non quo, sed quomodo!* is a motto that will admirably apply both to the sportsman and his dog; and it

were not amiss to have it engraven on the collar of the latter, with a view to their mutual regulation in the field; leaving to the graceless boast of the mere headlong slaughterman, with his savage gang of unmanaged bone-crackers, an undisputed claim to the *quocunque modo rem!*

NEVER beat before your dog, nor let him lose his time behind you. Neither permit him to be off into the next field; so as to place a hedge or a hill between himself and the possibility of your seeing what he is about at all times.

NEVER hunt a dog when tired down: it will make him a dull sloven in his deportment, and destroy the gallantry of his range. It may further teach him a trick of trifling, and of treating you, every now and then, with an agreeable trot the whole length of a ten or twelve acre piece, in order to attend to one of his *false points*; which, with jaded spirits, he may be tempted to sink into by way of a rest. Many a good point have I seen at a mouse, towards the close of a hard day's hunt, and that from dogs of fair character too.

NEVER permit a race after a hare: therefore on no account whatever be tempted to begin this race by firing at one. I can not admit this into my system, because, if ever your dog *finds his legs* in such a race, you will more than undo all the powers of command which you have been working for months to acquire. Fortunately for your arms and his sides, you are not very likely to incur the temptation. It is with a direct view to this circumstance, were there no superior reasons, that for the business of education I should give a preference to the moors; where the pupil is not exposed to have his yet undisciplined feelings excited into disobedience, as he is in countries where these vermin abound.

LAST of all, though not least, as applying more immediately to yourself than to your dog, and by way of corollary to the decalogue, I shall pick a line out of *Horace*, and put it into his mouth, with the alteration of one syllable only, for your instruction.

Si vis me cavere, cavendum est
Primum ipsi tibi.

To the above tablet of admonitions, which, as of general import, I would engrave on the memory of the tutor, I have only to subjoin a few cautionary observations, more exclusively addressed to yourself*.

NEVER suffer your children to ramble out with your dog, under the notion of exercise or airing, in order to pick up vices upon every haunt he comes to. Neither take them along with you to the field. You will call this a præter-necessary piece of austerity. Indeed, Sir, it is not, until something like discipline is established; unless you can keep them totally at distance, or close behind you in silence, and in a state which would be to them a heavy punishment, you have no notion how much their mere presence, by distracting attention, will impede instruction†. Remember too you have

* The negative examples of tutorage, so forcibly held out by the author, and the cautions against evil communications and the early habits of vice, being conceived, *mutatis mutandis*, of much general application, the whole of this concluding passage has been retained, without alteration on the part of the Editor.

† It is a curious fact, that in the fanciful education which, with a view of public exhibition, is given to the horse, one of the secrets of his trick-teacher is to prevent the most minute disturbance of his fancy, or seduction of his attention,

other use for your whip, than to flog them in when the bird falls.

NEVER send him out with our friend WULLY*, under the idea of having more game killed to him than you may have time or skill to do, nor for the purpose of bringing more of it home. I have great respect for his docility and attention; but he would never understand these cautions, delivered to him at second-hand. My

at the time. After having been made up in a secluded stable, as he is brought into the circle of the school to receive his lesson, infinite care must be taken that every thing be in a state of quietude. It is of no consequence how many people are seated around, provided they do but keep their seats: but if one of them only cross the circle, it is all over for that lesson; you can do nothing with the horse; and you must lead him back again into the stable for hours, perhaps for the whole day. Now, although in point of intellect, with submission to the gentlemen of the whip be it spoken, the dog is an animal incalculably superior, yet let me inform the breaker, who expects from his pupil a strict adherence to duties, whilst his eye is continually solicited, and his attention disturbed, by the wantonings and wanderings of some unbroken disorderly companion, whether upon four legs or upon two, that he expects more than, at his age, he has any right to claim from him.

* A young fellow of that country, who sometimes accompanied the author upon the moors in the necessary quality of guide: an office which his own eager propensities rendered him as willing as he was able to undertake. ED.

business is a generous range in open field: WULLY's propensities will invincibly lead him to bury himself, and the faculties of your pupil, in a low, despicable, poaching scramble amidst the broken windings of your peat-bogs: and "*Bluid! Bluid!*" (for we have heard from him the infuriating call) with a dashing spring for the falling game, are much too deeply established upon him by habit, not to do you irreparable mischief.

NEVER let your brother have him out alone; which he will be begging for, the moment you have established any degree of character: nor permit him to hunt, or talk to him, if along with you; nor even to bear arms in your presence, unless you take a triple bond of him before you start, that he will not, by a lawless attempt to excite a scamper after some broken-legged vermin of a hare or other, undo you for ever.

A fortiori, he is to be positively refused to other importunity, or to the chance of joining any vile ruinous associations.

Alas, Sir! as I throw my eye over the first and last of these cautions, I begin to shake my head, and to consider how much your easy

acquiescence will render of no avail all these my labours. But if you can not in the most determined manner resist every temptation to the two last, never dream of putting this system of mine in practice: you will only fatigue yourself in vain.

At the formidable appearance it makes on paper be not staggered: believe me, it is not so difficult as you may, on the first perusal, suppose. It is true that, except under the head of *quartering to find* (in which, however, although we are not to look for absolute perfection without long labour, I do earnestly recommend your persevering practice), I can not on any one point dispense with a strict observance of its discipline: but if you will adhere to it implicitly, and if your pupil be tolerably bred, and if he has already been taught no monstrous vice (ah, Sir! I again shake my head, for he has been made cattle-driver in chief among the curs yonder, down at *** *****),—I say, Sir, I will then pledge my reputation that a few, a very few lessons, will create a proficiency that will astonish you. But again, you must not dream of following me through its parts alone: in the attempt to give consistence to the whole, I have not so lightly interwoven their relations: you

must take them all or none. It is a system of that nature, which does not admit of communion with error or with vice: and remember I am not answerable, if you spoil a good dog by any compromise with either.

On the subject of hunting in company, and a mutual distribution of regulated beat, together with all the handsome figure-work of backing to point, I say nothing; because it does not apply to you. One good dog is more than it falls to the lot of most men to know how to manage, and full as much as, with your better engagements, you are ever likely to create; and again, remember I bar all associations, even for an hour, such as you are likely to meet with. Believe me, Sir, a whole season of private discipline is quite little enough to make your pupil fit to appear with credit to you, or even with all due advantage to himself, in good company: to which, as the means as well as the end of perfecting education, we are in this, as well as in other cases, finally to look; and I may therefore possibly resume this part of the subject hereafter. But our immediate business is to make him find his own faculties first: and with a thorough command established over him, under the head of *Down charge*, as above, he

people are aware of: an explosion of a gun is an awful thing for a puppy; he does not know himself as yet, and he may not be the only one who has shrunk from a first fire, and yet turned out a brave fellow before the end of a campaign.

The symptom is an awkward one, I will allow; and I would that you had bolder stuff to deal with, because, wherever I perceive any of these early tendencies to the rear, I always fear something constitutionally wrong in the temper; having for its remote cause some touch of bastardy at bottom, which makes but a bad sort of a foundation to build upon; requiring on the part of the tutor a considerable degree of care, lest a little mistake of discipline should lead to that most disgraceful and most incurable of all defects, the Blink. In order, however, to obviate the numberless imperfections connected with this kind of temper, and to inspire boldness, I know no means so likely as never to go out without a whip. This will appear paradoxical, but I know no other. I recollect an expression of one of the best and truest sportsmen I have ever known: "If a dog," said he, "will not stand the whip, I can do nothing with him." Assuredly, if he can not be brought to endure something under the shadow of discipline, he is utterly out of the sphere of my

system: and I would acquire credit by generously giving him away, to increase the valuable kennels of your gentlemen, "whose breed never wants breaking in; take it all of themselves; but you must never use a whip; O no, Sir! they are too high bred to bear it." When I have been obliged to hear this, I own I have smiled at the different notions of the sublimation of breed. As soon should I think of making a general officer out of some snivelling booby, who, for every rap on the knuckles to awaken attention, will creep away to blubber and suck his thumbs in a corner. No delicacy of nose can compensate the manifold mortifications a man must undergo, in waiting and watching the whimsies of some trifling, shivering, whimpering, indecisive, half-witted animal of this class. I would not squander my patience on such materials. But I am wandering, and must return to you. Our immediate business then, under the supposition that you may partly need it, is to create, or to increase, an endurance of discipline. Now it is impossible this can otherwise be done than by cultivating a familiarity with it; and it is thus that the half-licked things of the nursery get hardened into men. The presence of the whip therefore is indispensable; but its use requires judgment: on every occasion of any very marked error, it should be

shown; i. e. the pupil is to be brought in, with cheerful call, to DOWN! (of course the whole tone of the voice must be adjusted by a different pitch-pipe from what would be used for a less tender subject); and during the solemnity of an admonition, in which the encouragement of *Good dog!* &c. rather than the language of threat, is interwoven, must be hardened by its gentlest repeated fall over him, until he lies, with a clear perception of your forbearance, in fearless submission under it; and then to be dismissed on beat again with more than usual caresses, and accumulated encouragement. The repetition of this friendly treatment, upon the next occasion of error, will by degrees diminish, and at length extinguish all alarm at the idea of approaching you under the sense of fault; the total extinction of which alarm, it is almost superfluous to add, is the first point which it is absolutely necessary on the part of every tutor to secure, in order to get on with any pupil. The additional conviction of your forbearance, during the repetition of these submissions on his part, will soon bring him to support a little of the sting of the whip; by which, in its lighter modifications as applied to his sides, he is eventually to be guided, in common with some less troublesome fellow of hardier fibre, who makes stronger calls on your arm, but less

upon your judgment, to manage him. It may not be improper to note, that this sting should be given, in a state of guarded security at *Down*, by a few first strokes from the whip, which are to be gradually softened off, until it falls, as before, with unwounding and most admitted gentleness; recalling to him, as he lies, the sense of your forbearance, and instructing him to look to you with the fulness of unabused confidence; of which confidence he will presently make a transfer to himself, in the sum of an invigorated action and emboldened conduct. Of necessity, there is a great deal of trouble and of time lost, in thus working up a tender temper into a due consistency of conduct; and it seldom repays the toil bestowed in the attempt. I have already premised that, in the idea of establishing a kennel, I would have nothing to do with such a subject: but a man can not always pick and choose his materials; and, as in your case, he may be compelled, by means such as I have therefore endeavoured to indicate, to make the most of such as he can get.

It is astonishing how much an undreading familiarity with discipline will increase, nay create, action. A dog of truly hardened courage (I make use of this expression, because

the business of hardening and working up to temper, is in some measure producible in a figurative sense here, as by its literal application to the operation of art upon a piece of ductile metal), after a fault or blunder, which he may have been hurried into at some distance, whether perceived by you or not, will come in immediately to receive, from under your hand, this certificate of his forgiveness; or, as it were, this fresh issue of his commission; and then spring with redoubled vigour after having received it. I have seen more than one dog who, on coming in thus after some faultless blunder, would not stir a foot without a complete dressing: mere encouragement would not do. I shall perhaps hazard some imputation on my veracity in adding, that one I have seen, and at the period of his highest range and courage, who, if on such occasion you had let the whip fall too lightly, under the clear conviction of no fault, would gambol off for a short distance, and then come back for more. I have smiled, not without vexation, at the necessity of being obliged to take the trouble of something like a smart flogging; after which he would shrug up his shoulders, as though to shake from his sides what he now deemed a proper sense of whipcord, and instantly take his range off with all his usual gallantry. It is from materials

like this, that a man must look for future greatness.

It will be obvious, that this perfection of dutiful obedience has been created by an early judicious notice of every error. A generous young dog, where he has been well managed, if his legs have carried him on the other side of a hill into some involuntary spring of game, never in the first instance abstracts upon the idea of being seen by you or not; he concludes, by your previous management of him, that you are conscious of the blunder; and his sweep in is often misinterpreted for what it will afterwards become, a matter of sagacity. Now it is your business to take especial care that he do not abstract thus too soon, and before that sagacity is ripened by experience into a conviction that he can make nothing of the birds without you; otherwise, you will soon have him to look for, some half-mile off perhaps, drawing up to a point, where he thinks himself very clever in having marked them down, and whence his unlicensed approach will again drive them. Cherish therefore every tendency to sweep in from unseen error, and keep alive, as long as you can, this notion of your consciousness. If, unknown to him, you have had a glimpse at the birds as they got off, or if you

have any suspicion, from his manner, of what may have passed on the other side of the hill, never advance to meet him, nor let him stop, as probably from some apprehensions of correction he may do, on his return; but call him in cheerfully, and *Down!* to the challenge of "TAKE HEED then," and to the show, but not the smart, of discipline; from which, with all pleasantness of manner, and the encouragement of *Good dog*, &c. but keeping him within short compass before you, you make your way together up to the spot, in order to be satisfied what he has been about*. The chance of a shot at some tail-bird of a brood or covey, which, from due meditation on this lesson, he will by-and-by take a pleasure in leading you to, makes a bit of intelligence of this kind from your dog, thus established, worth something.

In expatiating thus upon the indurating effects of discipline, you will perceive that I am treading upon the very verge of creating that blink which it was our intention to guard against. But thus it is in all the intricate cases of morality; and to draw the line of discrimina-

* If his manner exhibit proof of strong and recent haunt, but without a bird left, you may here introduce with propriety the short lesson of "GONE! GONE!" taking him off immediately back upon his former beat.

tion must be finally left to the discretion of the tutor.

It will be evident, that the means here recommended for the cure of this defect, will apply only to that species of it which has its foundation in a tenderness of temper; originating not unfrequently in a general delicacy of fibre, and with which a high excellence of nose is sometimes connected; for, and on account of which valuable quality, a man will compound for some obliquities of manner, and feel himself inclined to make some sacrifices of patience and attention, in the fair attempt of attaching the pupil, through the medium of that very excellence, with an increase of ardour to his object. But where the blink arises, as I am of opinion is not unfrequently the case, from an actual deficiency of the nose, which the dog, however well dispositioned and willing to oblige, feels upon repeated trials that he can have no confidence in, and by consequence, with a mixture of foolery and fearfulness of doing harm, as soon as he perceives himself in the midst of game, or gets his few wits puzzled by a haunt, comes creeping, perhaps whimpering, in to heel,—to this species of the blink the above treatment is certainly not meant to apply. The whip is out of the question: coaxing will only make

the whiffling fool worse: and in this case, however unwillingly, we shall, I fear, be compelled to class him along with the blinker of a very different nature, the brute of perverse and selfish character, yet snivelling disposition. A strange mixture! you will say; but I rather think not an uncommon one, even in animals of a superior order, who are by no means deficient in faculties, but of whom you can get no hold; with whose petted temper, somewhat injured perhaps by unskilful early treatment, you are compelled to be for ever on the watch; whom the mistake of a word will fix at your heel for the remainder of the day, or set him uselessly dodging about in the rear, and leering at every attempt to get him again upon any thing like a liberal hunt; with whom, if at any time exciting hope, you are continually on the very verge of disappointment; and who is calculated, in short, for no one purpose but that of making eternal experiments on your patience. For a dog of this description I have less hesitation in prescribing the only proper mode of treatment, and which I would recommend as the only effectual cure for both. I will give it in the precise words of a medical friend of mine in the country; himself a sportsman, and his dogs, as well as himself, of no small eminence in the county where he resides. My intimacy with him sufficiently

warranted an application on my part for his advice, in the case of a young animal of a favourite breed, who had lost much of the use of his nose, and of his faculties also, as is too commonly the case under a high attack of that cruel disorder, so destructive of the sportsman's hopes, the distemper. The opinion of this gentleman, from its duplicate claim on the score of his experience in the nature of the case, and his general professional skill, was with me authoritative, and it ran as follows :

R. Pulv. nitro-sulph. compos. ʒjss.

Plumb. conglomer. p. p. ʒj.

Pulveri separatim superimponatur plumbum in sclopeto communi capiti applicand.

Dein juxta foramen ad imum tubæ eliciatur scintillula m. s. et fiat explosio.

CONFIRMATION OF POINT,

AND

LEADING UP TO GAME.

General Practice of heading the Dog, liable to errors; where proper.—Grouse and Partridges require different Modes of Approach.—Footing out the Haunt, necessary to the completion of a perfect Point, and the most certain Method of Approach to Game.—Sweep of Sagacity to leeward, not defensible.—Turnips, &c. not favourable to Instruction in the Management of Point, and still more injurious to the Business of Range and Carriage; negative Example of the Effects; admissible only to work down a Dog of High Courage; Expedients.—Poachers in Wales; their Method of killing Woodcocks with a Stalkinghorse minutely described; Reasons of its Effect in producing Stanchness; elsewhere applicable to the final Confirmation of Point.—Woodcocks; how to find them on the Ground; singular Instance of close Approach by this Manœuvre.

IN order to confirm the point of a dog, and to fix him perfectly stanch, it is not unusual for the tutor, after having obtained a tolerable command of a stand to the challenge of “TAKE HEED,” with the game before him, to sweep off in a considerable circle, and so come down directly ahead of him. By thus getting round

the birds, you prevent their escape; by driving them down upon the dog again, you insure a closer shot; whilst, by your approach in front, you keep him more decidedly in awe; and you are in his face, ready to stop more effectually any attempt to dash at a falling bird. So far the practice is excellent: but it has its defects, more especially as applied to you. We will suppose that your circle has been too small: you come down upon him cool and regular; every step of your nearer approach makes him more firm and eager; you are ready; so is he: in half-breathless expectation of the momentary spring, you pause, to mark the direction of his eye; his head begins to wander; again you move; nothing rises: no, Sir! the birds are up, some time ago, behind you. But this is not the loss: your dog *is made a fool of*; there is the mischief; and you will perceive it at the next point, where he will begin to hesitate and shuffle, and not know what to make of it; and in the confusion of doubt, more particularly if his temper is tenderish, or if he have a touch of the fool in his composition, he will very probably shrink into something very nearly related to a blink; against laying the foundation of which it behoves you to be early upon your guard.

This circuitous practice, as applied to partridges, is less questionable. In the first place,

because the covey keeps more together upon feed; and secondly, because, as I have somewhere picked up, they always feed *up the wind*: if, therefore, you have the means of making your circle large enough, you can hardly be wrong. But from the same authority, I do not recollect now where I found it, I have understood that grouse feed *down the wind*. Now, supposing this to be the fact, if your dog come across a brood upon the morning feed, he may very readily be struck by the haunt of some straggling bird to windward, and draw up to actual point. In this case, if you adopt the sweep ahead, as you bear down upon him, with the usual signal of check from your hand to keep him from an advance, that he may show symptoms, and perhaps by this time have some good reasons for attempting, he becomes fixed in a mere point of awe; in which, as you get close upon him, you may perceive from his manner that the sense of game has no share: the noise you make during this approach (in the necessary communication with him to check this attempt, which he has been prompted to by the perception that, during his attention to you, the game has slipped from before his nose, and has run), of course disturbs the remainder of the brood; and all the produce of your point is, the mortification of seeing them steal up at a hundred yards or more behind the dog, whose

disappointment, as above noted, lays the foundation of much possible mischief. Even to put him on the footing out of his own find, it is now too late: the bird perceiving that it was intercepted, has been making a circuit as well as you, with a view of getting back to its companions; and seeing them now at distance on the wing, you will presently observe it steal off on one side of you, far enough out of your reach, to follow them. If you can mark a bird down, and obtain a direct point at it, you will not fail, upon every occasion where the ground and circumstances will any how admit of it, to seize the opportunity of making this wheeling movement to the challenge of "TAKE HEED!" &c. as being the most certain method of teaching patience, and of confirming stanchness: but on the first break into a haunt, it is for the above reasons a very dubious practice; and however it may forward him in the great lesson of self-command, it adds little to sagacity; and it ministers not at all to the attainment of that invaluable faculty of perceiving, and following up, the progress of a haunt, which, with so many ulterior views, I am solicitous to call forth and to establish; and which is more immediately taught by leading him up from a direct find, under close command, in a regular advance on point (much in the way that has

been so fully exemplified under the head of "Seek dead," p. 53, &c.), through all the windings of the game on foot, until it springs before him. If at the last point, the game had been followed up by a dog of more experience in this way, he would not have been trailed off to windward by a straggling bird at the first chop; but having felt his way forward a little, he would have told you a different story, and have led you, step by step, bristling at the manifest increase of haunt on every side, down towards the middle of the brood; which would thus have been broken to some advantage. With every view, therefore, from the first touch of haunt upon the morning feed, up to the final purpose of infallible retrieve,—from the intricate business of tracking out an old grouse-cock among the broken hags, down to the still more equivocal chance for a second find of the little delicate land-rail,—it is of the last importance that a perfection in this lesson of "footing out the game" should be solicitously taught, and steadily adhered to. I will grant that it has not about it quite so much of show, nor doth it give birth to all the grand emotions excited by the approach ahead, and bearing down in line upon a team of dogs unmoved as though just hewn out of the marble: neither will the younger class of sportsmen be quite so well satisfied.

with the shot that is obtained by it, as by the seeming better chance of banging at a bird trodden up almost within touch of the dog's nose ; but, in the name of fortune ! what can you expect to make of the former of those just quoted, without it ? The bird, it is true, is frequently driven up by this means at some distance ; but be it noted, generally speaking, it makes off so nearly in a right line that it can hardly be missed.

I have been induced to state this instance of a mismanaged point with a precision of circumstances, and with somewhat of local application to you, because I have reason to think there may be some truth in the above notion, that the birds which will form the chief of your acquaintance do "feed down the wind." My evidence for it is the recollection of the conduct of an old dog, who, as the associate of a keen and practised poacher on the moors whom I once knew, had acquired a deal of self-taught sagacity ; and I have seen him, when baffled upon a haunt, and unable to make out an absolute find, nay, I have seen him, almost on the first touch of haunt, take a sweep off, in something between a crouch and a run, as hard as he could go, deaf to every call, as though he were mad, two hundred yards or more directly

down the wind; in which quarter it is evident that experience had taught him to look with more of certainty to find, or towards which he had, in any dubious case, been immediately led off by his knowing director; and then come crouching up, with no part of him but his head visible, in a right line to meet you. This is so fine a touch of intellect, that it is hard to think of checking, and yet I can not commend it; for if he has not his compass with him, and mistakes the wind a little, the consequences are obvious: and at best, inasmuch as his advance upon you is by an eager crouch in a right line, his final stop is seldom made to an actual find; but there you have him, with his nose stretched out over the corner of that hill, fifty yards off or more, most sagaciously useless, and the more sagacious the more irremovable, looking with all the eyes he has to see how very cleverly you are able to *make them out yourself*. I do not know a more mortifying situation than that in which a man feels himself here left to his meditations, with the infallible conviction, from a dependance on the dog, of the actual presence of game before him, in common prudence not daring to move, urged every moment by the reflection that they are creeping off in every direction, and not knowing which way to turn himself for a shot. And what is to be done? Why, nothing

but to bear down direct upon his staring companion, who, it is ten to one, has got more in his head than he has in his nose, in order to put him again upon the haunt, that might to more advantage have been steadily footed out in the first instance, without this touch of over-wisdom, which, if often repeated, would become but a very troublesome kind of a vagary.

In discussing the above questionable instance of sagacity, I have been led away from what we have now more immediately in view, the confirmation of point, into the business of approach to game, and footing out the haunt. The alternations, indeed, of stop and of advance, under the immediate command of the tutor, are so immediately blended in the sum of a perfect point, that it is not very easy to separate them: yet it may not be improper to suggest, that some degree of firmness in the one should be obtained, before you can fairly put the pupil upon the practice of the other, in order to teach that caution in approach which will finally precede the point itself; otherwise you will have him to reclaim to his duty through a forward action too nearly related to the rattle of the springer. I make this distinction principally with the view of expressing my disapprobation of a practice not unfrequently adopted with a puppy, when

the unfolding of his powers begin to render him a little unmanageable; *viz.* to plunge him over head and ears in a strong turnip-field, amidst the impediments of which he may be taught both these lessons at once, with a greater chance of command over him; and I shall therefore proceed to state some objections to it.

In the irregular and desultory scramble with which he has to work his way through the entanglements of ground like this, he must of necessity rattle up the game upon many occasions unperceived, and where severities would therefore be misapplied; by the frequent repetitions of which, in neglect of verbal reproof, he will acquire a habit of heedless blunder, which will beget the necessity of correction elsewhere, because utterly inadmissible anywhere. Again, it is not on ground like this that he can ever acquire the knowledge of his distance; that most admirable qualification which enables a man to act in concert with the dog, so as to direct their mutual approach to all advantage: nor is the sudden stab, which you here obtain to a bird buried under his nose, however it may contribute, by the admission of your approach, to awe him into stanchness, by any means so satisfactory, nor so fraught with instruction upon the head of self-command, as

is the regular advance on practicable ground, and stiffening into point at that distance which, under the direction of experience, his sagacity will instruct him to take a due measure of; and to which, with most intelligible meaning, he will hereafter direct you to look, with cool unflattered confidence, for the spring of the game before him; and with your attention undistracted by the gaping indecision of a dog who has yet to learn, from better experience, and the due superintendence of his teacher, the true scale of distance.

With a view to extreme perfection, indeed, a dog should perhaps never be taken upon this rough kind of beat, until he has got so far forward in his mathematics as to have a tolerable notion of this scale: for it is obvious that he never will acquire this excellence here; and the boldness with which he here presses to the enjoyment of a close approach, will lead him elsewhere to the marring of many a fine point, that would have been, if it had been managed with delicacy. At least, he should never be taken upon it until he has been so far practised in the business of quartering as to have acquired a perfect cross, under command, in advance upon the wind; with a clear conception of its meaning, evinced by the bearing of his nose for

intelligence into that quarter, where this practice will soon teach him he can alone rationally look for it; and to this conduct of himself, with a perpetual view to regular beat, it is here more immediately necessary that he should be attentively held up by the tutor. If the latter should here object to me the insurmountable toil of such attempt upon ground like this, I have only to answer, "Then let him keep the pupil out of it;" unless it be his purpose to relinquish all claims to the superior distinctions and advantages of regulated range: in which case, I have nothing more to say; and have only to lament in silence that it is not in my power to elevate his taste, and that so considerable a part of this little volume should be so totally lost, as it will be, upon him.

Without some such skilful carriage of himself, previously and firmly established, a dog will never clear his ground before him, nor get on in his day's work: he may slave away for hours in a handsome piece of turnips, or a good plot of potatoes, with no superior meaning, and little more effect, than would be produced by the ferretings of a good terrier; and his action will degenerate into a giddy undefined ramble, interrupted now and then by shadows of hunt, which stop him for a moment, but which he has

not acquired skill enough to make out, and which only serve to increase the irregularity of his undirected wandering, and to wear out his powers to no purpose.

I have before me a marked and lamentable instance of a dog, belonging to a friend of mine (I beg permission for the introduction of his portrait as a negative example), who has been lost to all the distinctions of excellence, by a slovenly inattention to his deportment, and the want of a better direction of himself, in early life. He had all the requisites from nature; his nose is uncommonly and steadily good, and with so much of natural discrimination in it, that I have seen few, with whom, when fairly put upon the haunt, I would sooner follow up a point: but his hunt amounts to nothing; of beat he has no notion; he is here, and there, and every where; for ever on the caper, but never on the inquiry: so that, with more than equal faculties, when brought into competition with dogs of more skilfully directed noses, he shrinks into nothing in the comparison; and, excepting from the chop of accident, in such company you may follow him for hours without one original find: yet I have heard him praised up to the skies, as the pattern of all excellence, by some people, who are delighted with the per-

petual bustle which he maintains, and are gratified beyond measure by the certainty of a close shot, which his occasional stab (for, not from any deficiency of nose, but from mere defective carriage, it is with him always either a spring or a stab), gives them an opportunity of trying their hands at.

It is not easy, I perceive, even with the pen, to make a direct way over ground like this: I came on to it for the sake of showing, that it is by no means the fittest situation to complete the lesson of point; and I find I have got entangled, and am already lost in the superior consideration of its still more unfavourable effect upon all the excellence of perfect beat. To evince the one, as well as the other, was indeed my purpose; and with a view to both, to urge upon the tutor, as a general rule, the expediency of endeavouring to acquire an ascendancy in the open field, as infinitely abbreviating the business of perfect tuition. It is true that, in the excess of spirits and of powers, which I look for in an animal of blood, every means must be resorted to for his control; and if he shows a determination to run riot and rattle on, disdaining all command, it may become necessary to put him in the pillory for awhile, with a fore foot strapped up to his collar, in order to

prevent his getting on faster than either his nose or his recollection can possibly serve him: or, better still, to give him the cross-log; *i.e.* a considerable portion of a decent-sized hedge-stake, slung in balance by the middle from a swivel on his collar*; the perpetual admonitions of which, upon his shins, will have no small effect in bringing him to hear reason; and with which, if need be, you may turn him for an hour into a twenty acre piece of such ground as we have now before us, and let him try what he can make of it. I am only dropping this as a hint, because I may not again have an opportunity to touch upon the subject of such expedients as may be necessary with a dog of high courage, in order to bring down the tone of his resolution within listening compass: but it must be recollected, that it is to be employed only as the means of acquiring an ascendancy, which it must be your strenuous endeavour to improve, upon ground where he can more clearly read his lesson, into decisive command; for it may be relied on as a maxim, that if you hold him not by a sense of obedience, rather than a sense

* The proper cross-log (not quite so convenient to take into the field), is a common log of light weight, slung by a swivel from the collar, so as not to touch the ground, with four sticks about six inches long, projecting at right angles to each other, ready to strike his leg a little above the knee.

of fatigue, a single night's rest will bring you back again to-morrow to the point where you set off from to-day, and the progress into a state of control will be tedious slavery.

But to return directly to our immediate business in the confirmation of point. Having, on a former occasion, presumed on taking the reader along with me to the other side of the Tweed, for the sake of exhibiting, where they are most capable of being displayed, the tactics of our art, I shall make no scruple in requesting him to accompany me now into the principality of Wales, in order to witness a manœuvre, the effects of which, in producing perfect stanchness in the dog, will be equally conspicuous. It is a practice adopted by the poachers of that country (and with which some of their gentlemen are more familiar than they ought to be), who, with the use of the stalkinghorse*, are accustomed to kill woodcocks on the ground. It may be proper, as we go along, to notice

* The stalkinghorse was perhaps originally made with some resemblance to the animal from which it takes its name, and of whose use the tunneller of partridges well knows how to avail himself, in driving a covey into his nets by moonlight: but the thing now so called in Wales, is nothing more than a small shield, made of stout pasteboard, of no decided form, fantastically daubed with paint on the outside, and with a few tufts perhaps of coloured hair waving near its top.

their dogs; which, generally speaking, are an ugly, raw-boned, cross-made derivation from the light setter, degraded through half a dozen generations of bastardy; than which, with a view of being made up into pointers, it is not possible to conceive more unpromising materials; and upon which therefore, if such be the effects producible, it is fair to conclude what a similar discipline is capable of doing with superior natures. By hunger and hard work, of both of which they get plenty, they are brought down into obedience; and their draw upon a cock in a wood, under the dread of their master's arm, with the power of which they soon become acquainted, is wrought into a full stop. Now let us turn our eye from the dog, to observe the conduct of the master. As soon as the former is clearly fixed, instead of pressing on him, or scaring all the cocks in a wood by his noisy admonitions, the latter retires in silence instantly: he is little solicitous about the conduct of his companion, who by this time has learned at what a terrible price his sides must pay for it, if, with the full consciousness of the bird before him, he should press forward to a spring. Having got off to as great a distance as the wood will conveniently admit, perhaps twenty or thirty yards, the master now unslings the stalkinghorse, which had been

carried at his back ; and mounting it on his left arm, presented towards the bird, he begins a circuit ; which, with as great a regularity, and as quick a pace, as the nature of the ground will possibly admit, he completes around the spot ; continuing his rate, but contracting the circle. The vulgar idea is, that there is magic in this circle ; which, when completed, deprives the bird of the power to rise. Now the truth is, the cock, having taken alarm on finding himself beset, has his eyes all around ; and perceiving, as it flits along, this formidable vision of the stalkinghorse, presenting itself at every avenue (for a cock always looks to an avenue for his escape), and threatening him in every direction, he lies fixed under the magical impression of fear ; or rather, perhaps, although alarmed by the appearance, yet not apprehending any direct hostility to himself, whilst it continues to move onward, he skulks close, as the instinctive means of escaping notice ; until, approaching him in narrower circles, the lynx-eyed director of it descries him on the ground, and levelling a short gun through a hole in the shield, lays him dead before the dog's nose. Let us now pause, to consider the reason of the extraordinary stanchness, which I have never seen equalled, of these poachers' dogs. In the first place, the dog has not his spirits

urged, nor is the cock driven to move, by the master pressing up to the point: he is left awhile to recollect himself; he becomes conscious of your presence within the sphere of the circle you are describing, and it has its influence on him; he perceives, by your still rounding in distance, that you are not in a hurry to advance, and he catches from you the idea of patience: during the narrowing of your circles, your direct approach is not perceived, and that patience becomes confirmed: and lastly, all motive whatever to make a dash at the bird, with a view of getting possession of it, is taken away by the never-failing certainty with which he finds, by waiting for your shot, he has it laid dead before him. Let us then take these principles, and apply them elsewhere, as the means of producing similar perfection.

It is true, that with game which do not lie close like the cock, but are readily put upon the run, the matter is not quite so manageable; nor will they often permit an approach, or be found in a situation, so as to become visible; but where you have a bird marked down, or upon ground where you have a chance of doing it with success, you will find it of infinite consequence, with a young dog, to practise this Welsh circuit: at any rate, he will learn, in the

very best mode in which it can be given, the lesson of patience; and if you can possibly bring your eye to bear upon a bird, you make him for ever. One bird killed upon the ground, to a steady, cool, deliberate point, is of more value than a season's hunt, in confirming stanchness.

The above most infallible method of killing cocks, is indeed completely practicable only in countries where, as in the woods of Wales, the growth of underwood is not strong enough to prevent their being traversed with tolerable facility; or to refuse, through occasional openings, a clear view below: but some modification of it is introducible almost any where; at least, where you can have any fair expectation of finding them. A cock may skirt the edges of close cover, but he never buries himself in a thicket: and, for the benefit of those whom it may concern, be it observed, that if you would find a cock upon the ground, you must direct your eye, not to the root over-arched by the branches of the bush, where either your dog's nose at the time, or some previous notice of his droppings, may induce you to look for him, but at the distance of several feet, where all is clear just above him, and where he lies on close crouch, his head huddled between his shoulders,

with "eyes prepared to take the horizon in," and squatted, altogether not very much unlike a large toad, in act to spring, and be on flight in an instant. You never see a cock, as you will a partridge, entangled in his rise, or blundering among the bushes in his hurry to escape.

As to the stalkinghorse itself, I must observe, it is by no means a necessary appendage: I have repeatedly seen cocks as effectually stalked without it. The business is to catch the notice of the bird as far off as you conveniently can, and to alarm his attention on every side, while you conceal your indirect approach by the celerity of your motions around him. "Keep moving!" that is the magic, and there lies the whole secret: if you stop, the charm is broken: pause not too long, as you dart the passing glance of your eye through the openings, in your endeavour to find him: however slowly, keep moving! He will not bear from you, as he will from your four-legged companion, a dead point. When found, retire from view a little; or, if convenient, relieve him by a show of retreat, preparing with gentleness the fatal level; in which be not unnecessarily tedious. Again remember, while you move you have him safe; but if your stop be of many moments, he is up, and off.

It is scarcely credible by a stranger, how near, under certain circumstances, a woodcock will permit himself to be approached by means of this circuit. I had once a singular opportunity of putting it to the full proof. In the course of beating a wood, I had my dog at point in a situation which induced me to try how far I could carry the experiment: by his manner I perceived the bird was within a few feet of his nose; I believe he saw him; but I was not solicitous about that; I knew my companion: I began, therefore, instantly to describe my circle, which there was nothing whatever to interrupt; the ground being a clear level, strewn only with leaves from the timber-trees above, and with a few straggling brambles. From my first distance, of not more than a dozen or fifteen yards, in the course of two or three revolutions, I brushed the stern of the dog, eyeing the bird as I passed; and narrowing still as I came around to face the point, if I had not been obliged to stop in the attempt to stoop, or if my arm had been two feet longer, I should certainly have caught him under my hat.

From the manner in which I have, as above, unfolded the secrets of this destructive manœuvre, I must beg that no discreditable inferences may

be drawn against me. I certainly will not commend, yet, as exhibiting some skilful evolutions on the part of the master, and as eminently calling forth the virtues of the dog, I can not permit myself entirely to proscribe it. With such views have I thought it my duty to place it here upon record; and I leave it, without further comment, to the conscience of the reader.

ON
HUNTING IN COMPANY,
BRIGADING IN THE FIELD, &c.

It can not be denied, however beautifully perfect a dog may be made up as a single dog alone, that his education must be considered as only half completed, until he is rendered equally perfect in company ; that is to say, that he shall possess enough of self-command not to press forward on, and thereby interrupt the point of another dog, whom he discovers fixed, or evidently drawing up to game immediately before him ; but from that moment, or from the moment he shall have his attention awakened to such discovery by the summons of Take heed ! to become as a statue immoveable, with his nose directed to the finding dog. This is termed *backing*, or being *stanch behind*. And furthermore, that when he himself shall have the find, he shall not permit himself to be urged forward, beyond the immediate direction of his own judgment on the subject of distance, by any indecent

pressure on him by the hinder dog; who, instead of being a fixture, as he ought to be, at his post, is not satisfied with playing second fiddle on the occasion, but is pressing forward from behind for the enjoyment of the scent in his own nose; and very probably pushing that nose up in advance ahead of his fellow, most impertinently obtruding his inquiries, and finally taking the point from the other dog; to have whom with a perfect command of himself in which case, is a matter of much greater difficulty to manage than the other: it is called being *stanch before*. It is quite unnecessary to add, how much a perfection in both, exclusive of the beautiful display of reciprocal sagacity, contributes to increase and to secure the means of making the most of the game. It gives the sportsman time to take his measures for driving up the birds to most advantage between himself and his dogs, whom they can not fail to perceive and be awed by: and its merits will be still more strongly conceived by a moment's contrast with what we have so often the misfortune to behold, in a set of ill-assorted and unmanaged animals, playing at the game of measuring noses after a covey which have been put upon the run up a furrow: now the one, and now the other has it; like a parcel of three-year-olds, neck and neck, for the last half-mile from the D. I. at New-

market; while their ignorant leader, or rather driver, keeps floundering along the broken ridge after them, under the paroxysm of a nervous flutter, with breath scarcely able to sustain his staggering limbs, and with difficulty panting out an inarticulate and unauthoritative—Take heed! Ba—a—sto! Po—o—nto! —Take he—e—d, Dido! while in effect he urges the dogs onwards, by continuing to press up to them for a chance of shot. It is well, indeed, if he do not make the attempt of measuring noses with them himself in advance; in which, whatever advantages he may derive from nature in this respect, he will assuredly be beaten by the odds of two or more to one against him; until at length a spring of the birds, thus run up out of all fair compass, followed by a random, because breathless, bang at them, puts an end to this ridiculous chase; leaving the gentleman at leisure to compose the convulsive action of his lungs, in the intervals of snarling reprobation breaking forth against his almost blameless, but sadly mismanaged, companions; who fail not to return it with a moment's leer of equal dissatisfaction, and then run riot upon the haunt, under the further permission of ignorance, as being the sum of all they are likely to get for their labours; while the other proceeds to furnish his double-barrel (for this cool gentleman, forsooth, must

have his double-barrel), with the means of another pop-pop; and the whole party are ready to set off, and to renew, as far as the nature of the ground may admit of it, a similar exhibition elsewhere.

I am the more desirous to present this contrast in full view before the reader, because I do fear that something too nearly related to the latter is, nine times in ten, all that we meet with among our sporting acquaintance; and certainly all we can expect to meet with among a certain class, by far too numerous, who compute their consequence in the field by the number of barrels and of dogs which they are enabled to bring into it, without duly weighing their own capacity of giving a due direction to either; and because a meditation on such contrast is the most probable means of producing the so much wanted reformation of system in those for whose benefit the two sketches are here presented: for while the beauty of the former must be sufficient to inspire a wish of possessing the power of exhibiting such a picture, the defects of the latter can hardly fail to point out the way in which these defects will be most effectually remedied: and it will of necessity suggest itself, that it may be expedient

for a man to disembarass himself, in the first instance, of the additional difficulties arising from mutual jealousies, and a contention for precedence between two or more of as yet imperfectly subdued spirits, and to try his hand at acquiring the necessary authority over one at a time ; which, for his information be it noted, he never will accomplish, if even with one individual, he shall copy the errors of the gentleman whom we have just beheld floundering up after his unregulated band for the chance of a shot, instead of setting an example of self-control to the dog, by a dead stop on his own part first, and arresting him on the instant with the language of determined authority ; followed, if need be, by the strict formalities of discipline, which have been so amply pointed out in the early part of this volume. When he shall thus have acquired a thorough command over each individual separately, he may then, but not till then, put them upon acting in concert together, without the certainty of continual disappointment and vexation, and with some fair hope of all the benefits and beauties derivable from their united powers.

It is with a final view to this object that, in developing my system, my endeavours have

been studiously and uniformly directed to the formation of individual character: for in this, as in other cases of education, to have principles thoroughly established in private, is the very best security we can have for the good conduct of an individual in society: and to push him forward into public, with his feelings and curiosity just awakened, before any principles are thus established, is to put him in the way of all possible mischief. I am aware that the doctrine I am here laying down runs counter to the general system, or rather let me say, the general practice; for having no principle for its foundation, and being built on mere convenience, it merits not the name of a system: but I must contend, that to turn out a young dog in a state of ignorance into mixed society, or even to lead him forth for the chance of picking up what he can at the tail of a superior (at least in the way it is usually conducted), is any thing but education. It is to begin that education at the wrong end. There is no ground-work on which to build future instruction. What he gets hold of in this way is mere imitation, and turns not to the account of knowledge: it goes not to the formation of character, or the creation of original worth. Good example, to man or dog, is of great importance, no doubt; but it is not

every thing, as applied to the latter animal. Our object is to call forth intellect, and to establish obedience upon principle; upon something better than the insipid habits of imitation; to extend to the utmost his faculties, by cherishing, and not extinguishing, the idea of self-agency; controlled at the same time, as the best security for good behaviour, by clear and well-impressed notions of self-government. In fine, to prepare him more effectually to learn what, at the moment of his introduction into company, he will be given to understand; not only that he is not to disturb other people, but that it will also be expected of him, that he shall bring into the public stock of amusement for the day, his quota of find. To this, as the indispensable ground of admission into the ranks, and as the only means of maintaining character and value in the field, it is the business of the tutor to direct the education of his pupil. Premising which, agreeably to the system so explicitly detailed in the preceding part of this volume, I shall proceed to show in what manner the pupil will now most expeditiously, as well as most certainly, be conducted to the attainment of such additional character and value; and to point out the means by which, with all the further advantages of superior instruction that are

to be found only in society, he may finally be wrought up to all the distinctions of an accomplished pointer.

But before we enter upon this tactical part of the business, I shall claim the privilege of making a short digression, in the shape of an address to a class of gentlemen, with an eye more immediately to whom the present volume has taken the shape in which it now appears, and whose approbation I look forward to with some degree of solicitude; I mean particularly that respectable class of individuals in the country, to whom, as so directly connected with the soil, the sports of the field more immediately belong; who, in consequence of such connexion, are at present, as they ought to be, many of them at least, engaged as the military defenders of their country; and who, whenever the day of trial shall come, I doubt not, will be found nobly to redeem the pledge they are honourably giving, and to act their parts as though just summoned by the hovering spirit of the immortal hero, who gloriously fell in the arms of victory, calling, in the name of England, "on every man to do his duty." To the understandings of those gentlemen it is that I am desirous of making a brief, but decisive appeal. Is there a man among them who would show himself so unfit

for the business of command, as to begin to discipline his new-raised levies, by brigading them together in the field? The idea is too absurd to be entertained for a moment, but with a sense of ridicule. Yet this, or something like this, will, I am persuaded, be found to be the conduct of every one of them, in leading forth the young levies of his kennel for the diversion of the ensuing season. The animal on two legs, whom, in the cultivated use of reason and speech, it is presumed he considers as possessing some advantages over the other, he finds it absolutely necessary to work through the tedious business of the drill, in order to give him some general knowledge of what will be expected of him, before he puts him in a situation where he would otherwise only create confusion. But without ceremony, and certainly without reflection, he begins the training of his four-legged troops, as though he thought them the more rational animals of the two, by putting them in a situation where nothing but a thorough-paced knowledge of discipline can render them available to any good purpose; or warrant the call which it is his immediate business, as their leader, to make on "every dog to do his duty." The gentleman will tell me, perhaps, that I am mis-stating the case; that his young dogs are not taken out with an idea of acquiring

a knowledge of their business by a mutual contest for precedence in error; that, under his own guidance, or rather under that of a regular keeper, the untutored animal has, in the example of some veteran of the kennel, his fugelman to appeal to in one case as well as the other. Now this is the very point I wish to come to; and must beg to reply by saying, that I am not certain whether this be not, in the way it is generally practised, the worse system of the two; and as that by means of which we are less likely to attain any very high individual excellence. It is the very cause that we have so many second and third-rate dogs, and so very few who are fit to act a principal character in company. The object of this system is merely to make the dog "stand." But what of that? We have known dogs of every kind, from the greyhound to the bulldog, mongrels and curs of every description, who have been taught "the trick of standing." Within a few years, even a pig has been made up into a pointer*! Now my notions of educa-

* I am sorry that I can not spare room for the full account of this accomplished pig, as given in "The History of Animals," by the Rev. — Bingley, published A. D.

It had formed an intimate acquaintance with some young pointers, belonging to a keeper on the New Forest in Hampshire. It fed and slept along with them; and when they were taken out on training, it regularly followed them into the field. Hence a whimsical idea occurred to the breaker,

tion go far beyond all this. They extend, in the first instance, to the dog's knowing what he is to stand for; and to bring him forward early in the more profitable business of independent inquiry. The stop which he has from instinct, more or less improved into determined, self-collected stand, makes the great characteristic difference between the animal whose superior talents we are endeavouring to cultivate into excellence, and the whole of the other inferior orders of the species; but although in itself indispensable, it is among the very least of the qualifications which go to the formation of a finished pointer.

The reader will be pleased to recollect, that in entering on the detail with which I have conducted the pupil through the whole of his individual duty, I was induced, at the outset, that he would try his hand in teaching him the trade of his companions; and with the help of a parcel of stones in one pocket, and of lumps of pudding in the other, he very early succeeded in his attempt; and the pig did his part to admiration. We are further furnished with strong certificates from a Sir H. Mildmay concerning these extraordinary performances. Now I certainly do not mean to disparage the pig's abilities: still less will I venture to call in question Sir Henry's veracity: he may be perfectly correct in saying that "the pig quartered his ground as well "as ever *he saw* a pointer:" all I mean to say is, I do apprehend that the Baronet and I differ widely in our notions of quartering.

to express, in pretty intelligible language, my reprobation of the practice so generally had recourse to for the training of young pointers: and it will be very necessary here to go somewhat further into the subject, at a time when, in bringing a young dog into company, we are placing him in a situation, where the defects arising from this method of treatment will become more universally conspicuous. Why is the poacher's dog so frequently superior to that of his lordship, in the great business of "finding game?" The advantages of birth, and of feed too, a circumstance of no small importance with a view to the animal's nose, are altogether in favour of the latter: but, as it has been said of kings, that being born better, they are generally educated worse, than the rest of mankind, so doth it often befall his lordship's dogs, with regard to this object at least; and which makes such infinite difference between the value of one dog and another, when fairly brought into competition in the field together: it is then that the triumph of independent powers is made manifest.

Let us examine a little the progressive steps of education, by which the class of dogs I am now alluding to, as well as all others, who are put out for this kind of nominal training under some professional gamekeeper, are expected to

make their way to knowledge. The pupil of this school, exclusive of being taken out before the season along with some steady old stager of the kennel, under cover of whose frequent finds he may be brought acquainted with his game; which is all vastly well as far as it goes, and so long as it is not permitted to go too far, by tying him up eventually at the tail of the old dog (although, for reasons heretofore given, I do not make much account of this unexplained preface to real business), after the arrival of the day when, from the fall of the game at the animating report of the gun, he might be enabled to make some guess at the reason why he has been held in restraint at the shoulder of the old dog, instead of being suffered to rattle on to the enjoyment of the scent which he has so often been cheered up to, is no longer permitted the fair use of his own faculties, lest he should disturb, with the sallies of his ignorance, the manœuvres of a superior or two, who from their standing and acquirements are entitled to the lead: the business of the day can not be given up to him: every effort to make one among them is quelled on the instant: he is not even allowed to be too familiar in his approaches to his old friend; and he very early begins to find out that his only chance of coming at the enjoyment of what his every nerve has been made more eagerly alive to, by

the recent indulgence he has had of foiling his nose upon the bird laid down before him, is when, from the stops and draws of one of his betters, he perceives there is something good going forward, to make the best of his way up to the other's tail, in order to come in, although at the expense of a licking perhaps, for the rudeness with which he presses up for his share of this delightful touselling. Now, is it at all to be wondered at, that a dog, brought up in this way, should employ three-fourths of his time in looking out for another's point, and that he should ultimately sink in the character of a mere watch-dog? To be sure he is at liberty to find employment in the rear of the other's beat: the old ground lies open to him; where he may amuse himself in describing as many fanciful and useless curves and angles as he pleases, unmolested, in his own way: for as to his tutor, that ought to be, he has quite enough upon his hands in regulating the evolutions of a brace, or more perhaps, of his efficient troops ahead, without attempting, what amidst the interruptions of company is utterly impracticable, to chalk out for a young dog the outlines of his range, and to give him any just notion of the important business of quartering; which can only be impressed at an early age, and which alone can enable him to make the most

of himself hereafter. A radical deficiency on this head, be his other attainments what they may, will mark him with inferiority during the whole of life.

It will be collected, from various passages in this volume, that I am by no means solicitous to conciliate favour with the gentlemen of the green uniform: we can hardly, indeed, expect to be on good terms together. It is impossible that I should not awaken their jealousy, in the delivering of precepts which, being so directly opposed to their practice, go to the lowering of their importance; and which, if acted upon to the extent, would so much increase their labours. Far, however, be from me the intention of throwing censure upon them on the present occasion, or of causing to be imputed to their negligence the deficiencies of pupils, which have the full benefit of all they can get, or are only admitted for awhile as parlour-boarders, in these academies. It is the erroneous plan, the unprincipled compromise with convenience, which forms the substitute for education, that I am arraigning, as necessarily involving the injurious consequences I have mentioned, as well as not a few others which might be added, to inflame the account. I repeat it, that the nominal teacher has quite enough upon his hands. It must not

be forgotten, that he takes the field in another capacity, more immediately in request with his master, as well as of more value to himself, than the unprofitable business of dog-breaking. He has his game-bag to fill, to supply the demands of the housekeeper at home. It is well if he have not also a private pocket or two to fill; whose contents, if within any practicable distance, will, somehow or other, find their way to some convenient hedge-alehouse, by the side of the turnpike road, where the guard of the mail-coach is in the habit of stopping for a minute, to make the knowing inquiry of "Any bye-letters?" and is regularly answered, two or three times a week, by the production of a well-stuffed basket; which will further find its way, without the aid of a direction, to some of the great "turkey merchants" in the metropolis*. I am only throwing out this as a hint

* If I am not very much misinformed, the creditor side of the account of a single keeper, in the books of one of these gentlemen, not a hundred miles distant from Bond Street, has amounted to no less a sum than four hundred pounds in the course of a season. I hardly know how to lend my faith to the extent of this assertion, unless it be, that his lordship (with all deference to the Corinthian capitals be it spoken), finds it convenient to make use of his keeper's name, to cover what would otherwise be considered a disgraceful transaction. In which case, the latter only comes in for his *per*

to the possessors of territorial property in the country, that, where the demand for game is of so imperious a nature, they must not be disappointed, if they do not find their young dogs make all that progress in their education which they have so eagerly expected from them. A man whose mind is so highly bribed to slaughter, and a resolute possession of the game, is quite out of the question as a teacher of moralities; which, on the part of the tutor, as well as the pupil, have their foundation in continual self-denials and forbearances. He must give up the birds for the sake of the dog, in too many instances, to be at all compatible with that mixed character in which he is of necessity called upon to act.

And here it may not be unnecessary to make an extension of this hint to those gentlemen, with whom, from their want of skill or leisure to make any thing of a young dog, it is a material object, as the only means of his attaining any thing in the shape of education, to get him put out for awhile with a keeper, who finds it convenient to increase his emoluments by

centage: this, however, ought to be a handsome one; and I should think that some difficulty would occur, in keeping a clear check on this honourable partnership.

taking in a few private pupils. It is certainly no small advantage to a puppy to have the permission of being continually in the field with a masterly shot; and where such a quantity of various business is going on in his way, he must be a dull dog if he does not pick up something; and if he begins "to take it," as the phrase is, it is all vastly well: and if, by-and-by, he gets hold of a bit of point, he gets full as much as his owner has any right to expect for his money. I can not help feeling myself interested for these brother professors of canine instruction; and would willingly shelter them from all misapplied imputations of neglect. I say again, that if the pupil gets hold of a bit of firm point, it is full as much as he is entitled to: it is a good deal more than nine out of ten ever do get hold of in this way. A gentleman should limit his expectations to the nature of the case. It is not in this school that we are to look for refinements of education, or any attempt to call forth talents. The few guineas that are usually given for what is termed "breaking in," would not pay for the shoe-leather worn out in doing justice to a dog of high courage and powers. To cultivate the expanding faculties of an animal of this kind, is no part of the contract: it is quite enough for a tutor, of the description we have before us, that

the dog does no harm ; and he takes especial care, therefore, to put an instant extinguisher on every troublesome attempt at such expansion. Oh ! but it hath been with grief of heart that I have beheld a noble young creature, all life, all gayety, perception, and promise, beaten down into a very cipher ; and, at the peril of a hedge-stake, which I have longed to make a juster application of, over the shoulders of the ignorant brute who was misusing it, compelled to keep dodging on at the tail of some “ old trotting Bob ;” before whose steadier nose the fellow made more certain of produce from his unerring shot.

I trust that, in delivering my sentiments with freedom on the plan of education generally pursued in these academies, and in pointing out the effects of necessity produced, in limiting the character of the pupils that are brought up in them, I shall not be considered as entertaining any design of treading on the toes of the important persons who preside over them, or of disturbing their feelings with any alarms of reformation. Let them continue to make up their pointers in their own way : their qualifications will, I doubt not, be found to be fully adequate to any notions of excellence possessed by those for whose amusement they are ulti-

mately destined; and in “whose hands the most accomplished animal that ever was made up, to gratify the high-toned feelings of a thorough-paced sportsman, from a total want of knowing how to manage him, as well as of a due sense of self-government, and a consequent relaxation of all discipline, would not be worth a base bank-token in the course of a fortnight.”

The reader can not fail, indeed, to perceive that it is not to this class of men that I consider a single page of this volume as addressed; the bulk of whom is composed of beings, with whom I should as little think of reasoning as I would with their unmanaged, and, as they have rendered them, unmanageable dogs; but among whom also, I have known men of considerable intelligence and integrity, fully competent to the delicate and difficult business of instruction; who, equally with myself, have felt the beauties, and could set a just value on the refinements, of discipline; whom I have heard regret the necessity they were frequently under of sacrificing their better judgment to the imperious calls of their situation; and whose very language it is, with a tacit reference to their immediate lords and masters, that I have, with

very little alteration, transcribed in the concluding sentence of the preceding paragraph.

Without the risk, therefore, of being misinterpreted by the latter, and with a total disregard of such opinions as gentlemen may have picked up by a communication with the former, I have thought proper to trace to their source, in this motley mobbish education, the causes of that great inferiority of character with which we are obliged to compound, as well as we can, for the frequently disappointed diversion of a day: and among the most prominent of which, this uncontrolled and unqualified rage for possession of the game, so continually mingling itself with whatever other efforts, either in the way of precept or example, may be made on the part of the tutor to inspire a sense of order, will for ever operate as a bar to his self-defeated hopes.

It is for this reason that I have dwelt with some degree of earnestness on this matter, in order more effectually to impress upon the mind of every gentleman, who may not be above having pointed out to him a surer and a shorter road to excellence, the necessity of being on his guard against every similar error in his own

conduct. It is of more immediate consequence to insist on this, at a moment when we have in contemplation the confirmation of character in the pupil, by introducing him to a knowledge of his social duties, and when a breach of order will become a source of complicated mischief. Let me then warn the tutor, as he tenders his own gratification, in the early establishment of such character, and as he would avoid the perplexing difficulties of having to rally a parcel of troops in disorder, at the most interesting moments of service, to divest himself, during the first period of bringing his pupil to act in brigade, of all tendencies to blood. Let him dismiss from his mind every thought concerning the possession of the bird, which has not immediately for its object a lesson to the pupil respecting the mode of that possession. If he have not virtue enough to resist the solicitations of the game-bag, leave it at home; lest it should divert his attention from the delivery of these lessons, at the critical moments of *Take heed* to point, or of *Down charge* to the shot, in such well-advised way as shall make the pupil clearly comprehend his new duties, and the nature of that respect which he will hereafter be called on to pay to the good order of society, in return for the means thus afforded of greatly

advancing his own knowledge, and of highly increasing his importance and his usefulness.

Let not any man deceive himself: game-killing and dog-breaking are more than one man's business; and whoso taketh the field, in a craving struggle to reconcile the two characters, may rest assured that he can not take a more effectual method to disappoint himself in both. A gentleman should examine his pulse, therefore, when he is about to set off in a morning; and if he perceive that he is in want of game, let him carefully turn the key upon any young dog, in whose horoscope he may have cause to read superior destinies. He will make a surer progress in his learning by his private meditations at home, than by a premature admission where he will incur the risk of picking up what will render necessary the additional, and generally more difficult, task of unlearning hereafter. Instruction is not the same in our business as it is in the case of some other young animals; where the negative example, if skillfully managed, is frequently of more consequence to the formation of morals, than the most perfect presentment of positive virtues. The former can not for one moment be witnessed by our pupil, without leaving an impression of

mischief. Defer then to another day your better-directed endeavours for his advancement ; or give to him, along with some discreet individual of your kennel, a couple of the morning hours ; during which a strict observance of all the formalities of discipline must be made a point of honour between you ; and let him then be led home by an attendant, out of the reach of mischief ; leaving you at liberty to make out the day's diversion as you please, with some of your other troops, about whose characters you have less reason to be solicitous ; or with such as are already above the point of receiving injury by some little slips, which, during the heat of service, with your eye somewhat too intent upon your game-bag, may be very likely to occur. Occasions, indeed, will present themselves, in certain situations, where in order to secure a fallen bird, it may become expedient to relax, or to supersede the strict formalities of discipline, in a way that will not do any permanent harm to a dog who knows too well what you and he are about, to draw any improper inferences from a momentary breach of order ; but which would be utterly ruinous to the morals of a young dog, whose principles are not yet firmly established, and infinitely retard the business of perfect tuition.

I know not whether the reader will expect from me an apology, for having apparently digressed to some extent from what was announced as the immediate business of this chapter: but I flatter myself, that he will think I have not improperly trespassed on his attention, in delivering my sentiments, somewhat more at large than I had heretofore done, on the mistaken principle, or rather the want of all principle, which so generally obtains in the training of young pointers to their duty; and in more directly pointing out to him certain defects of character, which are the obvious consequences of this erroneous practice. He will, I hope, be convinced, that it became necessary for me, in the first instance, to remove these stumbling-blocks of offence, which stand so directly in the way of establishing a system, the great superiority of which can not fail to be perceived, when we are on the point of bringing the pupil to act in full brigade, where his virtues, or his vices, will be so eminently useful or injurious. Having thus cleared the way, I shall, without further impediment, proceed to show in what manner his portion of the former, resting as they do, upon the best foundation of manners, already subdued to a sense of individual order, may most certainly be turned to

account, in his further rapid advancement towards a final perfection of character.

I must here beg to refer the reader to a passage, near the conclusion of my address to the friend, for whose benefit I was first induced to summon my thoughts upon this subject, where I am taking leave of him and the pupil; assuming the state of the latter as fully prepared to reap the further benefits of an introduction into public, without the risk of bringing disgrace upon himself, or of disturbing the good order of society, by any very flagrant breach of the laws by which he is hereafter to be bound.

I have been induced to say, that “a whole season of private discipline is quite little enough to make the pupil fit to appear in company with all due advantage to himself:” and I certainly am not disposed to deduct from the duration of this period, where the pupil is composed of such materials as I should ever wish to have to go to work upon; with all the capacities of greatness about him, and consequently with his full share in all the capabilities of error. Where I have in contemplation to build much, I can not admit of narrowing the extent of my foundation. But, as the great majority of our young animals will be found without any very exalted

claim on our future hopes, and therefore of somewhat more manageable character, a much shorter period, a few months, or even weeks, with due diligence and a close attention, on the part of the tutor, to the precise line of conduct which I have chalked out for him, may, it is probable, suffice to bring the pupil into such a state of order, as to warrant his admission where, with all the further benefits of good example before him, which he will now be enabled to comprehend, he will have the means of greatly extending his own knowledge, and of making the best of his way towards perfection. Much undoubtedly will depend on the nature of the subject you have to deal with; and still more, perhaps, upon the circumstance which I must all along be considered as premising, *viz.* that the pupil came into your hands uncontaminated by ill example, and uninjured by any silly experiments or ignorant attempts at his instruction. I am sufficiently aware how extremely difficult it will ever be, to have the raw material in such a state of purity, even with all the pains which, generally speaking, it may be within the power of a gentleman to take, in order to get his puppies reared out of the reach of this kind of mischief. But it will, I am sure, be accorded to me, that, in my vague speculation concerning the extent of this first

important period of probation, I do not take into the account whatever of toil or of time may be expended in the flogging of vices out of the pupil. The reader will be pleased to observe, that this is quite an extra consideration; and if there be too much to be done in this way, I can not help expressing my fears that we shall never arrive at the point, which I must now be permitted to hold forth as the criterion by which to fix the period for introducing a young dog into society, viz. *that he be perfect under the head of* DOWN CHARGE. I must here request of the reader to take the trouble of recurring to what I have said on this subject at p. 37; after an attentive perusal of which, I beg to repeat, with undiminished emphasis, the word “perfect.” Be the time more or less, that shall be employed in attaining this point, it is then, and not till then, that I can allow, with any chance of benefit to himself, the pretensions of a dog to thrust his nose into public. Upon various other points, which will ever be most explicitly and effectually taught in a state of single hunt, yet in which time and experience can alone give him all the perfection that we wish, it may not be necessary to insist; but on that of “Down charge to the shot,” I must require a prompt and strict obedience, steadily, though somewhat impa-

tiently perhaps, waiting your deliberate command of his approach. It is, as I have heretofore said, the hinge on which my whole system turns. It is the great master-spring which, as you will presently perceive, is to give you a more extended direction of all his future movements.

Be this then the test of the pupil's first admission into society. Show me a dog "*perfect at the Down charge*," and I will engage, in a very few days, to exhibit him to you equally firm at the challenge of "Take heed," to the point of another dog; and with all that cautious delicacy of approach, which constitutes good manners in society. In the way that he has been already fixed to his post, under the immediate view of the game falling before him, and, on his "advance to Seek dead," compelled further to endure the flutter of the wounded bird in its efforts to escape, without the permission to seize, or even approach it with violence, his nerves have been put to a much severer trial than any we have now to make of his endurance: and if a little giddiness at first, arising from the novelty of his situation, or the excitement of jealousy, combining with an eagerness to have the game in his nose, should for a moment drive the great rule of "Take

heed" out of his head, a lesson or two from the whip will assuredly recall him to a sense of obedience, and make him understand the respect he is required to pay to the point of another dog; which his own sagacity, a much stronger security than that of the whip, will very soon teach him the meaning of, to the infinite improvement and rapid unfolding of his faculties, in a way which no solitary hunt can ever equally confer. When a clean and full impression of such meaning, independent of his own instinctive feelings, or of the insipid habits of imitation, shall have laid the firm foundation of self-government, I consider all the difficulties of perfect education as surmounted: you have in your hand a clue wherewithal to turn and wind him as you please.

We come now, after a preface of somewhat more length than I could have wished, but which, as tending to remove impediments, I hope the reader will not think without its use, to the business of bringing the pupil to join the ranks, with an immediate view of his being further brigaded in the field. It is scarcely necessary to say, that his first introduction be limited to a single individual; and it would be a mere solecism to stipulate, that such individual be himself most perfect in the point

which we have just insisted on from the pupil; and hence we shall have occasion to infer a necessity, which every gentleman who contemplates taking the field with more than a single dog, will further find himself under, of creating a school of example for himself; unless he shall be enabled to find, which is not very likely, some well-disciplined individual, not radically injured by having been brought up in one of the old schools, whom he can prevail upon implicitly to adopt a new grammar upon this our leading point; without which it is impossible that our pupil and he can ever be in the necessary state of intelligence with each other. However perfect in every other respect, however stanch to the challenge of "Take heed," either by himself or in company, if he be in the habit of breaking the line to secure the fallen bird, or if, even after the most respectful point, at some distance, to the finding dog, he shall come rattling in at the instant of shot, we can not look to him as a pattern or as an associate, where we have in view the establishment of what will, for various reasons, be found a superior system of manners.

I wish here to observe, that in thus giving an apparent preference to some steady veteran, from whose manner, rendered sedate by age

and experience, the youthful pupil may derive many useful hints, I am by no means recurring to the motives which render a companion of this description indispensable in the common mode of what is accepted for education. It is extremely desirable, no doubt, for the pupil to have such example immediately before his eyes, by an appeal to whose stanch and steady conduct he will be more directly taught, as he will more explicitly comprehend, his new duties; but it is to me no further desirable, than as having to rely on a companion who will hold his point firm and unshaken, by whatever measures may become necessary to impress upon the pupil a thorough sense of these duties. I should full as soon, abating somewhat for the consideration of having two irons in the fire, expect to succeed in establishing a perfect sense of social order, by bringing together a couple of recruits, provided they were both equally perfect at the point insisted on. The only difference with me is, that in this case an assistant in the field will be wanted by the tutor, in order that, during the administration of discipline which, just at first, will of necessity be called for, to fix attention on the finding dog, the latter may be secured from working on the foil of the game, which of course has been sprung, or put upon the run

by your clamorous endeavours to restrain the unlicensed encroachment of the other; or from setting off upon fresh hunt; or from the probable attempt of getting off at some distance to stare at what is going on with his friend, not without some very allowable apprehensions of his coming in, though he knows not why, for a taste of whipcord himself; all which circumstances, as tending to withdraw a dog from a constant sense of authority, more especially the latter, must be cautiously guarded against: add to which, a consideration that this permission to be trifling about, will very much diminish the solemnity, and take off from the effect of the new lesson which you are, in fact, reading to them both. Now, with the better aid of some cool and steady veteran, by long experience sobered down into a state of quietude at heel, during these first struggles to keep a young dog from breaking the line, the attendance of such assistant will become unnecessary. But as there are very few pointers, however perfect in discipline, who will be prevailed on to stand by, and listen in patience to your long preachments, which may be all very necessary for the young one's edification, but for which, with an eye to the mode of your explaining and enforcing some of your arguments, they may have no great relish; and as they may therefore be

liable to be troubled with the fidgets upon these occasions, under cover of which they may think it prudent to get a little further out of your reach, and so finally creep off upon undirected beat; and for a still stronger reason, in which the pupil is concerned, and which will presently be explained, it may be altogether highly expedient to have along with you an *aid-de-camp*, with a chain or cord in readiness, during the first period (it can only be of very short duration), employed in effecting a transfer or extension of “*Down charge* to the shot,” already established, into the obviously collateral duty of “*Take heed* to point,” as the *sine quâ non* of his admission to act in full brigade. To the detail of his further conduct in which business we shall now proceed.

In all well-regulated attempts to reduce morality to practice, it is the part of sound philosophy to lay down certain general principles, which, from their forcible manner of challenging notice, and the clearness with which they offer themselves to reflection, shall have the most direct and powerful influence on conduct. Such will be found, in the case now before us, a leading precept, which it will behove the teacher to bear in mind, viz. *to speak to the finding dog*. It is thus that the

pupil will most directly be brought to comprehend the object, on account of which he perceives himself called upon, in the most coercive language, to respect "the find." I must here once more have recourse to the familiar dialect of the field ; by means of which, in the way of exemplification, I shall more effectually than by any formal arrangement, however studiously given, of less interesting precepts, convey my notions about working up a dog to a complete knowledge of his duty upon this great point ; which ignorance fatigues itself in the ineffectual struggle to put at the beginning, but which it hath been my endeavour to place in its more proper situation, at the conclusion of a perfect education.

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INSTRUCTIONS
FOR ATTAINING THE
ART OF SHOOTING FLYING.

MORE IMMEDIATELY ADDRESSED

To Young Sportsmen;

BUT DESIGNED ALSO TO SUPPLY

THE BEST MEANS OF CORRECTING
THE ERRORS OF AN OLDER ONE.

DISCE, DOCENDUS ADHUC!—HOR.

BY THE
AUTHOR OF KUNOPÆDIA.

DEDICATION.

TO

ALL THE LEARNED AND UNLEARNED,

IN THE

PROFESSION OF ARMS;

TO THE

HONOURABLE KNIGHTS COMPANIONS;

TO

THE S.S.S.'s;—THE P.A.'s;—THE B.'s*;

AND TO

ALL OTHER MINOR ASPIRERS AT DISTINCTION,

OF AND BELONGING TO

THE ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF

THE TRIGGER;

THE

FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

* *Vide* Note near the conclusion.

INSTRUCTIONS
FOR ATTAINING
THE ART OF SHOOTING FLYING.
IN THE FORM OF
A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

SIR,

LOOKING with confidence to an unreprieved indulgence in the privilege of presenting myself to you with the same familiarity of manner which, upon a former occasion, I adopted, as the means of more effectually perhaps, as well as of more agreeably, communicating instruction; and feeling myself thereby relieved from the dull arrangement of prefatory matter, which, if I had been at all disposed to enter upon my subject in the way of a regular treatise, might have been deemed necessary, I have the less reluctance in once more sitting down to the further task which I had proposed to myself, after having put it in your power to do justice to your dog, to take your own hands a little under my tuition; of which my recollection,

and a letter now before me, convince me that they do stand in very serious need. And to do my best towards a conversion of the disappointments arising from your present undirected randomness, into the conscious triumph of decisive shots; and from the storehouse of materials which I have occasionally been collecting on this subject, to draw forth and to arrange such further useful information, as may give you a greater command of arms, as well as a more decided knowledge of their effect; enabling you thereby to take the field with greater confidence; and, without fear of rejection, to fulfil your present laudable intention of enrolling yourself as a KNIGHT *Companion of the honourable Order of THE TRIGGER.*

If, in the character I have assumed as professor, I had considered myself as delivering a course of lectures to mere novices, who for the first time were about to have a fowling-piece put into their hands, in that case, a good deal of this preliminary instruction might have been expedient, for the purpose of bringing their fingers acquainted with their weapon, and of giving them an adequate knowledge of their right hand from their left. But with you, and a thousand others in the same predicament, who only want to be put in the way of its more

corrected use, all this introductory matter would only be considered as a superfluous trespass on your patience. With all the humbler uses of the gun, your hands have from early life been familiar: you have already conquered all fear; of that, however, we shall be better satisfied anon: and you have only to get rid of a few bad habits, and to establish in their place a more scientific handling of your arms, in order to enable you to rise superior to those blunders which, to your imagination, present so formidable a bar to your attaining the honours of our profession. Courage, my dear Sir! and I will answer for your success. You have been more than sufficiently lavish in your praises of the means I afforded you, of creating to yourself so interesting and so valuable a companion as, I learn with somewhat of conscious triumph, our pupil of last season has become; for you may imagine, I feel myself not a little flattered by this additional proof of the merits of my system; although I am well satisfied that, on the present occasion, it has owed much, as every system always must, to the hands which it has been committed to. Now, Sir, I will venture to pledge whatever of reputation I may have acquired with you on this head, that with an equal attention to the precepts which I am preparing to deliver to you upon the present

subject, I shall not be less successful with yourself; and that, with the first of next season, you shall be qualified to meet his point without the fear of disgracing yourself in his eyes, or of so continually feeling shame for having your defects brought in competition with his excellences. I will not for a moment have it supposed, that I am not able to do as much with you in the first instance, as I have been enabled to do at second hand with your dog. The rules here laid down for the superior command of arms, and for their more effective direction under every emergency, have not been given with less deliberate consideration, than the precepts by which the dog has been conducted through his duties. And, *a priori*, I should certainly promise myself more success with any gentleman upon the present subject, than upon the other, where the faculties of the pupil make so material a part of the consideration; whereas here every thing depends solely on the determined pains which a man shall be disposed to take with himself; and he can only be disappointed by a failure in his own application.

But it is time to enter upon our subject; which may conveniently enough be opened by the immediate purport of your letter. You say, that “you find your gun somewhat too long in

the stock for you." It is the common complaint of all beginners. "Too long," or "too short," are only different modes by which they express the indecision of their own imperfect knowledge; and the former is the more general objection against the but, until they have learned how, properly, to dispose of it. Of the gun of which you speak, I have a perfect recollection; for I am to presume, that it is the same which you received as a memorial from our mutual friend *****; to whose somewhat premature departure from us, more especially when thus discussing a subject with which he would occasionally be so much delighted, we owe a moment's serious pause:—and I well know that it was mounted for him under my immediate direction, and that the stock, both in its bend and length, were under my own eye fitted to his shoulder. Now, Sir, viewing your very different form, I can not suppose that it is really too long for you; and I do strongly suspect that the impediment you complain of, is partly, if not entirely, owing to your *not knowing how to bring up a gun to your shoulder*. Be not offended! Before you have followed me through many pages, you will probably begin to be convinced that it is a thing you have yet to learn. Give me leave to ask you one question:—Do not you now, when your dog is at point, or on strong

hunt, get up to, or follow him, “with a short, undecided, shuffling step, and your knees infirmly bended under you, crouching and creeping, just as if you were going to rob a hen-roost; your nose, and the muzzle of your gun too, as far forward as you can well poke them; and your barrel already more than half on level, with a view (as you at present suppose) of being so much more ready to shoulder?” This, to be sure, may be all well enough when crawling towards a flight of wild fowl, in a fen, or skulking up within reach of a flock of wood-pigeons, at an early breakfast in a pea-field; but it will never give you the commanding level at a bird on wing: and if, in the midst of one of these half-crippled approaches, you happen to be surprised by the spring of game, and should be seized with the ambition of bringing your gun to bear upon it, you will find your limbs tottering in your wandering attempts with the muzzle to effect it, and your charge will be sent off at mere random. Sir, I will challenge you to your face, whether it was not, with your arms and your body stiffened into embarrassment, by some such mistaken carriage of yourself, that you made your advance upon the black cock, which your luck, far beyond your deserts, has, I perceive, lately been offering you the chance of bringing home in triumph.

Od's flints and hammers! triggers and touch-holes! what were you about? How rarely in a man's life does it occur to have such a prize presented to him! and how have you been blundering it away! And then I am to be told, "Confound the stock of this gun! Never was there so fine a shot! Could not have missed it! (No to be sure!) But this ****'d long but (Sir, I bar all swearing, out of the harmless bounds of professional language) just tipped my shoulder, as I brought it up; and from my finger bearing on the trigger, off went the charge before I got a fair level." Now, Sir, confound your own awkwardness! say I. By the poking crouch of your whole body, you had already thrown your shoulder some inches forwarder than it had any business to be; and by the embarrassed position of your arms, you had deprived them of that disentangled freedom of action by which the but would have cleared all, and have been lodged, where it ought to have been, within the point of your shoulder. I beg your pardon, if, in sketching with freedom this *portrait of awkward unskilful advance*, there be not some, and that a material part of it, to which you may sometimes catch yourself in a state of resemblance, whilst I proceed to give you what I conceive to be a better example for your imitation; by a comparison of which with your

present less extended action, you may very possibly find out that the stock is not too long, and that it may be worth while to make trial of a method by which the impediments you complain of, may for the present be surmounted, and by a little continuance, most probably will entirely vanish; and, at all events, by the study of which, I do conceive that, in the important object of decisive level, you may become infinitely improved. In the mean time, as there are many reasons* why a man should accustom himself to shoot with as long a stock as he can with any ease to himself command, I enter my protest against the curtailing process which you at present talk of, until by your own improved knowledge you shall be better able to determine whether the present errors of the barrel are imputable to the stock of the gun, or to its bearer.

We shall commence then with your APPROACH TO GAME, OR ADVANCE TO POINT. In doing which you may get up any how, provided you are perfectly free from all internal flutter, and your dog be in such a state of discipline, that

* These reasons, along with other matter upon the subject of *Stocking the gun*, and of fitting to shoulder, will hereafter be given in a separate chapter.

your mode of advance be a matter of indifference to him*. If the least of this flutter exist, stop instantly; for it is of no use for you to run floundering up, with your heart beating a tattoo against your side, your eyes rivetted in a wild stare out of your own command, and your mouth wide open, ready to catch one of the birds, if it should happen to fly into it. Make a call upon your manhood for a repossession of yourself; and when that is effected, advance again, until *within the chance of spring*. By this, I mean as near a distance from where you have reason to suppose the game lies, and which your acquaintance with your dog's nose and manner alone must teach you to form an idea of, as you dare to venture, without being perfectly ready to meet their spring. Pause here for a moment; in order to breathe, to feel your pulse, or take a pinch of snuff, if you please; but, at all events, to gain the command of yourself, and to be cool: and instantly

* It must here be understood, that I am not now giving rules for the best mode of advance, as an approach to game: this must ever depend upon the state of discipline of your dog, as well as other circumstances; and the modes have been already discussed in the *Kunopædia*. On the present occasion, the dog is not at all taken into the account, and I have in view only the management of the person of the shooter, so as to make his shot effective.

*handle arms**; giving to your eye, at the time, an eager undecided (yet not wandering) direction forwards, somewhat beyond the immediate sphere of expected spring, in order more effectually to seize the object rising beneath your sight, and not to have to search for it, when risen, beyond the expected bounds. And now, Sir, dismissing every former symptom of a design upon the hen-roost, let your further advance be made with firmer and nearly upright port; and, instead of the short, creeping, shuffling step, let it be extended as far as you can with ease; yet as slow as the necessary connexion with your dog, now in advance upon the foot, will admit, in order that at the instant of spring you may, with the now liberated action of your lower limbs, more immediately and perfectly bring yourself to form, or TAKE FORM †! “ This must be done by a decisive step-out with the left leg, the foot in a line of direction with your thigh, towards the range of the bird; your right foot, at the same time, turned outwards, to very nearly a right angle with the other; your body nearly upright, but

* See the *Drill Exercise*, for this motion.

† For this, as directly connected with MAKE READY! see the *Drill Exercise*.

easy; and altogether considerably sunk upon the bended spring of both knees; assuming thus, by this extension of the legs, and cross direction of the feet, a position of firm, but flexible, support." There, Sir, I leave you standing in this attitude, whilst I proceed to digest a little, and to arrange, my instructions for the more effectual attainment of the art which I am professing to teach you.

In order to make myself as thoroughly understood as I can, I shall give to these instructions the form of an absolute drill exercise, with duly separated motions; which I shall leave you to combine hereafter, and to work up by practice into a rapid, but explicit, execution. Uncertainty and error have their foundation in ignorance, or in neglect of principles: and it is only by a direct recurrence to these, that we can hope effectually to reclaim the former. Disdain not, even at this time of day, to be taken back through the very hornbook of instruction. I assure you, Sir, for a dozen years or more of my shooting life, I blurted away as great a quantity of powder, with as much noise and as little effect, as any gentleman upon my scale need to do; and it was not until I had repeatedly and pertinaciously drilled myself, through some similar practical detail,

into a mode of handling my arms with freedom and decision, that I had any pretensions to be called *a shot*. Of the necessity, indeed, and of the efficacy of this actual drilling through the rudiments, I am so thoroughly persuaded, that any man of common adroitness and due docility (presupposing a touch of the blood of a sportsman in him, enough to fix his attention), who never had a gun in his hand, I would engage to make a better shot of, in the course of a month, than the keenest undisciplined beater up of game, who has been squandering his loads of ammunition for twenty years together. “A very promising lecture, this!” you begin to exclaim; “but I shall be tired to death. Consider, my dear sir, I am standing here *in form*, as you call it, all this while!” True, sir; and, as with your dog, it will do you good to keep you there. It will make you find out *the true balance of your position*; that commanding station upon your lower limbs, from which you may be enabled to use your upper ones to most advantage. However, we will relieve you from your present attitude, to be renewed, and more effectually wrought into easy habit, elsewhere. For the present, therefore, let us turn our faces homewards. “What then,” you cry, “is it not in the field that I am to receive your instructions, and to try to improve my shot?” Mere

trial, Sir, without understanding the principles of improvement, is of no consequence. It is only waste of time, and squandering ammunition, until you are better drilled; and so, come home along with me! “Why, what a plague am I to go home for?” To be drilled, I tell you: I can do it there as well as in the field; by your own fire-side, if you please; even as I now Ah me! why do my thoughts, recoiling on myself, banish the flattering vision which had borne me hence, and through some pages past had placed me at your elbow, prepared to scale the mountain’s brow along with you, and drink the air fresh from the stores of heaven, with every animating circumstance of the pursuit revived before me: the gay and gallant bearing of well-ordered troops, the eager sweep of keen intelligence, the touch of haunt, at length made out to find, the cautious step, the rich variety of start and stop, and all the fine sagacity displayed in footing up, through all his teasing efforts to elude the search, some sly old rascal, who for years has reigned the patriarch of the hills, on the move for an escape: then, the stretch of expectation, the alternate play of hopes and doubts, until, at length, as he steals up in distance, confiding to his invincible power of wing, a rapid, but skilful shot arrests him on the

extremest verge of possibility. Instead of which,—what a drawback upon a man's happiness are the dull realities of life!—here have I to contemplate myself, “cabined, cribbed, confined,” and compelled to make the best of a wishful look, occasionally thrown around among the now lifeless trophies* that I have hung up around me; the splendid records, indeed, of many a former triumph, but which unfortunately begin to have somewhat too much of the *juimus Troes!* connected with them. Let me take a turn across the room to disperse the cloud that is about to rise:—alas! again these stiffening limbs of mine move heavily beneath me, and do but ill accord with the office that I am about to require of them. Are they now fit to spring through the easy, but decided, motions of the fugelman? And in what manner too shall I convey these motions to your mind's eye, in order to make a transfer of them to yourself? I am well aware, that by the aid of words alone, to convey a clear idea of any mechanical action, or of the methods of personal motion in the human body, is one of the most difficult efforts of language. A man has little notion, until he shall try to put himself down on paper,

* A small collection of English game, got up in a very superior style, the joint tenants of a room usually inhabited by the author.

what very inadequate ideas he has, or is able to convey, concerning himself; and still less how far the imperfect outline is liable to distortion from the misconceptions of the person to whom it may be submitted. I much fear, therefore, that I may not be so rightly understood as I could wish. But under the total negation, for the present, of every better means of communication between us, I have only to solicit an attention on your part, equivalent to the precision with which it shall be my endeavour to render myself explicitly intelligible; and your own practice must grope out the truth, amid the obvious defects of an exemplified instruction.

THE
DRILL EXERCISE.

CARRY ARMS.—This is hardly within the list of my actual words of command, because it has no absolute connexion with your shot. But as it is by no means unrelated to an easy transition into the next, and as I hold it meet and fitting, that a sportsman should be distinguished by the superior carriage of his gun, as readily as you discern a workman by the handling of his tool, I shall bestow upon it a brief comment. The most general mode is to carry your piece, with the barrel upwards, sloping over your left arm, the lock being clasped by that hand, with the fingers extended around the cock; upon which, as the arm falls easy at your side, the weight of the gun is principally borne. In this situation, the cross motion to meet the grasp of the right hand, at the call of *handle arms*, is ready enough; but, for various reasons, that will appear as we proceed, I do

not think this the best position. Therefore “turn the barrel down upon your left arm; the flat part of the stock, opposite the lock, clasped with your left hand; the thumb resting on guard, over the trigger; fingers extended around the upper part of the gripe of the stock, now turned below; upon which, and not upon the cock, as in the other case, the weight is chiefly borne: in the proper clasp, the point of the third finger will come round, and rest upon the head of the tumbler pin” (the screw by which the cock is fastened to the lock). With your piece thus supported, the lock is better covered from occasional rain or damp, and the transfer into a grasp by the right hand more immediate; whilst the left more easily shifts into its place, when called on for the shot, and like that of a practised performer on the finger-board of a violin, stops in time.

It is true, that fatigue will sometimes lower the tone of your carriage into a horizontal trail at your side, in balance upon your fingers; or the more unprepared water-fowler's sloping lounge over the shoulder. I have only to say, let this never be done by the right hand, lest you should acquire a habit of holding your gun thus, when it may be of somewhat more importance than in mere travel on a turnpike road.

In your situation, at least, it is not easy to say when some sulky, selfish, solitary scoundrel of an old cock may not spring upon you ; and off he goes, chuckling defiance in your face ; whilst you may just as well employ your left hand in scratching your head, as in a scrambling attempt to recover arms, so as to get any adequate level at him. *Toujours alerte !* is the watchword with the sportsman, as much as with the soldier ; and when the excess of fatigue will not admit of that, why, you had better go home and get your dinner.

I must now observe, that it is not solely for the purpose of a somewhat readier shift into a grasp by the right hand, that I am thus directing the inverted bearing of the barrel over the left arm. It is of no small consideration with me, that by this means, in case of accidental discharge, the security for its being harmless is so materially increased. When the gun is borne in the common way, with the barrel upwards, more particularly if the muzzle be permitted to droop into the slovenly and vulgar cross-line, every thing to the left is most awfully threatened by it ; and if your piece happen to be upon cock, or if any accidental impediment should occur to the perfect catch of the lock within (from an obstruction of this kind I have been

within a few inches of having a whole charge through me), the first stumble may put a companion in the most imminent danger of life. It is in vain to say, that with proper care no accidents can happen: every man who has been much in the field, knows that even in the coolest hands they will happen; and there is no man who will be ingenuous, but must confess, that he has occasionally found the cock of his gun unwittingly left standing in a position, where it wanted only a casual touch of the trigger for a chance of doing the most fatal mischief. It is for this reason that I would, therefore, strenuously recommend the adoption, and the habitual establishment, of a so much safer, and let me add, easier and more elegant carriage. I refer you back to the directions. Please to observe, "the cock inwards and down; and the side of the stock imbedded against the inside of your left arm, taking an easy position considerably below the chest." Now, Sir, look at the important difference in the elevation of the barrel: even carelessness can hardly bring it into a direction, in which the discharge from it would not be made at an angle of twenty or thirty degrees above an horizontal line; much above every possible risk to the nearest ranging companion. Under the contingency of a fall, the difference is still

greater: in the former position, from a trip of the foot, the arm being instinctively thrown forward, down goes the muzzle of your gun sideways, and off may go the contents, raking the whole line to the left: but if carried in the other way, and clasped by the left hand as directed, then, under the same falling projection of arm, the discharge would be at a considerable height in the air, with the additional security of a direction backwards*. I know not whether what I am now addressing to yourself will ever be matured into the fulfilling of your wishes for its communication to the public; but if it were, I should certainly here be prompted to exclaim—Gentle reader! more particularly if thou art fond of the sport, forgive me if I have thus interrupted our attention to duty, through the course of a page or two, by labouring this little point somewhat strenuously. Consider! it may be the means of saving the life of thy best friend, and prevent the marring, perhaps, of all thy own diversion for the whole of an embittered existence afterwards. Many indeed there are, and these, men who from their long standing in the profession would be much out of humour to be told so; but to take the field with whom,

* I shall further elucidate this, where its uses will become still more obvious, under the head of “Beating cover.”

is indeed a service of danger; and few, very few, where you may venture to do it with perfect security. Voluntarily, I should never go on service with any of the former; but when it has fallen in my way to join such a party, my first view has always been directed to the bearing of their arms; and when I found they belonged to the dangerous squad, I made it a rule to get off to the right of the line; most willingly relinquishing all the advantages of easier shots from a station on the left of the beat, when thus rendered a post of danger. I own I am selfish enough to set some value on a right eye; and I do not think it quite so pleasant to undergo a scarification of the shoulder, in order to have a handful of shot picked out of it.

But to return to the business of the drill; in which I perceive I have been somewhat precipitate: I have been going on to the motions, before we were quite prepared. In the first place, dislodge your flint, and put a wooden driver in its place: now stick up a wafer, or small piece of paper, on a conspicuous part of the wainscot, as the representative of your bird or mark. Change its position, for the sake of various practice; but begin with the height of an usual flight; or assume at a distance, through

the window, a small, but let it be a well-defined, object. Now, Sir, take your station.

ATTENTION! to the word of command. Instead of going back again with more than one reference, for the sake of clearness, we will recapitulate the order of CARRY ARMS! “Turn your barrel down upon your left arm; the flat part of the stock, opposite the lock, clasped within the left hand; the thumb resting* upon the guard over the trigger; fingers extended around the upper part of the gripe of the stock, now turned below; upon which, and not upon the cock, as in the other case, the weight of the gun will be chiefly borne: in the proper clasp, the point of the third finger will come round, and rest upon the head of the tumbler-pin†; the side of the stock imbedded against the inside of your left arm, which will take an easy position, considerably below your chest,

* In a note annexed to the description of “a secured carriage of arms in cover,” the reader will hereafter be informed of the reasons which, without obstructing him by undue anticipation, could not be given here for placing the thumb *upon* the guard, rather than in the position which, in the more familiar clasp for general carriage, it will find its way to.

† The screw, with its head generally engraved, which fastens the cock to the tumbler of the lock.

being partially supported on the hip: body in an easy walking attitude."

HANDLE ARMS!—This is the first active position; and immediately represents your action as *advancing on point*, or when arrived *within chance of spring*, or during any traverse of *instant expectation*. "The grasp of your right hand upon the gripe of the stock; the forefinger through the guard, loosely feeling the trigger; thumb firmly securing half-cock; left hand shifted to its place, *i. e.* grasping your piece on the under part of your stock, at that point where the whole gun would be poised in balance, or rather a trifle beyond this point; your piece thus borne in both hands, about as high as the middle of the chest; the cock towards you, with a tendency downwards; and the line or direction of your barrel at an angle of forty-five degrees above the horizon, with a small inclination over the left shoulder." In this position I now refer you to the corrected step which has been prescribed for your approach to point, and in which you are now advancing, in instant expectation of spring. Let me stop you one moment, to note the infinitely greater security against mischief, in case of a stumble or fall, in which you are now advancing, compared with the vulgar forward direction of the

muzzle, which has been so much, and you will by this time begin to perceive how justly, reprobated.

MAKE READY!—Or rather MARK! for that is the sportsman's word by which, if in company, and not in immediate view of the spring, he will expect to have his attention roused to the game now on wing, as his object or mark*. I beg here to take you back to that precise attitude in which I left you standing, in order to *find the balance of your position*: and you will be pleased to recollect, that the disposition of your lower limbs, as given under the order to *take form* (see p. 171), must, at the same moment, accompany the action, which we are about to give to your upper ones. At the instant then of taking form, “Let your eye be darted firm and *irremoveable* upon its object: throw the butt of your gun from you to an easy extent of both

* In situations where a laxity of law on the subject of shooting hares is allowable, or where rabbit-shooting makes part of the diversion in cover, it is of importance to give immediate notice to a companion of an object on foot, or on wing; to the latter of which, the word “Mark!” must be exclusively confined; and for the former, instead of the clumsy phrase of “Mark *the ground*!” which obtains in some places, the neater expression of “Mind!” should be employed, as making a more explicit distinction between fur and feather.

arms; but loosening a little the grasp of your left hand, turn the cock downwards, and let the barrel come down more in slope over your left shoulder. It is during this combined action of throwing the but from you, and turning the cock downwards, that the act of cocking will most readily be performed. The cock to continue secured by the thumb over it, and quitted only as you proceed to the next motion. In the act of cocking, let your fore-finger quit the front of the trigger, and extending itself sloping forward through the guard, only feel the side of it with gentle pressure." Your body, by this action of throwing out the but, combined with the step-out of the left leg in taking form, will be brought with its weight principally upon that limb; a position assumed as more immediately called for, when the flight is nearly in a line from you, or to the left; which will comprise four out of five of all your shots. Where the flight is to the right, the necessity of a varied position will be explained hereafter.

PRESENT! — "Let the barrel, as at this moment, inclined over the left shoulder, be swept in a circle forwards with a smart motion, the fore-finger of the right hand (sloping, as we have before placed it, through the guard, and clear of the front of the trigger) being, as it

were, the centre of motion upon which the gun turns, during this sweep; by which action the but should be raised nearly to its full height, and then bring it back, with somewhat of a thump, into its place within the shoulder*; whilst, at the same time, an increasing grasp with the left hand, which till now has kept its hold rather loosely, combines with that of the right hand upon the gripe of the stock, to keep it firmly there. The direction of the barrel to the mark, or what I would call the *line of level*, to be taken, in the first instance, a little below that which, as already drawn by your eye to the object, I would distinguish by the *line of sight*. Again let me remind you, that the latter be firm and irremoveable; to which a precise

* The heedless handler of a gun, who has never drilled himself into a due performance of this action, or who from ignorance on the subject of proper fitting, has got his stock too short or too straight, is very apt to lodge the lower tip of the but against the point of his shoulder, or against what the anatomists call the deltoid muscle of the arm below. In the hurry for a quick present, a man is liable to this; and the black and blue complexion of this muscle next morning, will prove that there has been imperfect handling. The proper place for the but is within the shoulder, having a firm central bearing against the collar-bone. It is precisely for the purpose of escaping this erroneous lodgment, that at the word "Mark!" the first action directed is "to throw it off to an easy extent of the arms;" so that, in the circular sweep of the gun, the but may come up clear of all impediment, and be brought back with firmness into its place.

adjustment of the line of level must finally be made, by an easy flexure of the upper part of the body altogether, but without any loosening or twist of the butt from its firm hold within the shoulder: and on the instant that you get these two lines in contact, or, in other words, at the moment that you bring the muzzle of your gun, from its first level a little below, to bear direct upon the object," the motion of

FIRE!—"To be performed by a contracting touch of the trigger-finger only, and not combined, as is frequently done, with a tightening pull against the shoulder." It is a bad habit; very nearly allied to the winking and blinking of the raw recruit, or the rook-shooter's wiser shove of his piece forward, "in order to hit the harder:" and you should watch yourself narrowly, if you have any tendency to it, inasmuch as it will, to a certainty, more or less derange your shot*. And here too you may note one of the first advantages to be derived from a recurrence to the drill: perhaps you may here find out, by a deviation in your line of level, after the fall of the cock, what I would not affront you with by previously supposing, that

* A method of putting this matter to the test will hereafter be submitted, where the young shooter is regularly taken through his forms.

you are not yet able *to stand fire*. When you are perfectly so, you will begin to find that, as in the case of superior warfare, every thing will fall before you.

You have, as above, now presented to you, a manual of motions; in the performance of which it will behove you to acquire an adequate degree of expertness, if you would possess that freedom of hand which alone can give you a command of shot. In conducting you through these motions, I have confined myself to the shot in its simplest form, as in cases where the flight of the bird admits a choice of our station at pleasure; avoiding purposely the interruption of your attention by such deviations as a variation of circumstances, in the course of general service, may render necessary. It will be proper, however, to bring these also before your eye. I shall proceed, therefore, to retrace the subject in the way of a general commentary; with such reference to the rules here prescribed, as may enable you to form a due estimate of their fitness, and assist you in acquiring such further varied disposition of yourself, as may ultimately give to you a prompt, explicit, and effective command of your piece, under all emergencies.

In the first place, it is this decided irremovable dart of your eye upon the selected object, and the habitual practice of thus bringing your barrel at once up to it, instead of applying your eye to the barrel as it rises, and having the object to find out afterwards, which is to do every thing for you in shooting flying. It is the grand secret. It makes all the difference between the mere humble hedge-popper, and the liberal professor of a superior art. If your eye falter, and you begin to take a rifle-view along the barrel, be assured the bird will slip from you. You may look for it again; but the odds will be very considerable against your ever finding it. I have my doubts whether, in very expert shooting, the barrel, except just at the muzzle, is ever seen at all; at least the eye is not conscious of it. I could readily give some pretty clear proof of this, were it not that we should be somewhat too much diverted from the more instructive pursuit of our subject. It will be enough for me to lay down this as an axiom, with the truth of which you will find yourself more strongly impressed as you improve in practice:—*Keep your eye firm upon the bird, and your gun will find its way to it of itself.*

I have recommended the line of level, as made by the first present of your barrel, to be

a little below the object. It is obvious that this is with a view of giving you an opportunity of making a trifling alteration, as you bring the muzzle up to mark ; which, either from a little inaccuracy in your own present, or by a deviation of your bird from the first line of flight, may become necessary : but this should always be as little as possible ; and you must ever be regulated by your own cool, but instant, judgment upon the amount of that deviation, as resulting from the nature of the flight. If your first present be too low, under the notion of seeing so much more of your way before you, you will incur some risk of coming up wide of the mark, from the difficulty of effecting, with your barrel already on level, a due coincidence in the ascending line of sight with the transverse or diagonal direction of the line of flight. An early practitioner is very apt to err in this way. He is apprehensive, and justly too, of taking his level too near the range of the bird, lest it should get beneath his muzzle, and leave him floundering in the fruitless attempt of regaining sight. He has therefore his hedge-popping adjustments to make, in order to effect the coincidence required ; and in doing this, he is very liable to get out. As he advances in skill, he acquires not only a more correct measure of his mark, but a confidence in bringing up his

first level more nearly in contact with it; which, in proportion as it diminishes the call for subsequent adjustment, will increase the decision and certainty of his shot.

I believe it is a pretty generally received opinion, that birds are principally missed in consequence of being shot under. I am aware that, in the greater number of shots, the bird is still on the ascent during the progress of the charge towards it; and I know also how much, at any material distance, the lead will begin to feel the influence of gravitation; which are both sound reasons for keeping up our level: but I am not prepared to admit the position in its unqualified extent. I put entirely out of the question the irregular band of the slap-at-'ems; your "sons of thunder," who never permit the contents of their barrel to wait the chance of rising up to level, but shut their eyes, and fire away in hopes. Much as I am bound to admire the genuine, though somewhat unmanageable, ardour of these gentlemen, I can not admit them into the present calculation. My views are confined directly to that part of our corps for whom, as having entered the ranks with serious thoughts of improvement, I feel myself immediately interested, and with whom I rather think that the majority of errors will be found

above the mark. I will grant that the shooter may have a previous consciousness of this depressed level, arising from apprehensions aforesaid; and that he may, when visible after the shot, often perceive the bird escaping above the then apparent range of his barrel. But let me awaken his attention. Is not that barrel considerably sunk from what was its direction at the instant of fire? I am asking this question, for the purpose of detecting what I believe to be, in yet unregulated hands, a very general source of error; for I do strongly suspect, that a kind of random elevation for the moment, as a substitute for the cool adjustment we have been talking of, takes place with, or rather precedes, the touch of the trigger, and sends off the charge above what should have been its destination. I have only to add, if you ever hope to attain any thing like steady shooting, let every inconsiderate unprincipled dash in the dark, of this nature, be cautiously avoided.

Upon the precise point of time for the fire, professors of equal celebrity will differ; some preferring the first instant of perfect level; others again hanging on the flight of a bird for some time, under the supposed notion of a cooler shot. In the cross-shot, or when the diagonal approaches nearly the horizontal line,

the flight must be followed by a corresponding sweep of your barrel. In the straight-forward flight, or nearly so, of course you may take your choice of either. But where there is any material slope into the diagonal line, you will find a dependence on the first the soundest practice; and it is for this reason that, in the Drill Exercise, I have more immediately had this shot in view. Let us for a moment, in imagination, take ourselves on beat into the field, in order the better to exemplify this instant shot. Mark! there steals off a young bird, in as a great a hurry as it can to get away from you, but sweeping in an ascending line up the hill, upon your right. Now, Sir, be not you also in a hurry to get up your gun at it. It is the most difficult of shots; and it is vain for you to think of pursuing it with a corresponding sweep. There is no keeping hold of a diagonal flight like this: to the left it is far from easy, and to the right nearly impracticable. "Bring yourself instantly to form," therefore, by a step-back with your right leg, and your body in poise upon that limb*. Be not afraid of a bird, sprung at your foot, getting out of

* We have already (vide Drill Exercise, at "Make ready!") spoken of this varied method of "taking form" for a right-hand flight: it will be more fully explained presently, under the head of the snap-shot.

all reach: let it take its range to killing distance. In the mean time, "draw, with a steady eye, the line of that range ahead; and as it approaches its allotted point of distance on that imaginary line, meet it there with your barrel, rising gently towards it for awhile, but at the last moment brought decidedly to mark." And if you have done yourself justice upon drill, in the firm command of a present, a touch with the trigger will leave it but little chance for an escape. In cover, at least, you will do nothing without a command of this practice.

If you adhere to the slow deliberate level, it should be observed, that it requires a much firmer hand. It is much more difficult to retain imperfect hold of the line of flight, than to come in contact with it at a given point; and it is for this reason, that the cross-shot, where the bird is otherwise so much exposed, and as it were hung up for some time without the apprehension of getting out of reach, is so frequently missed. A man shall call upon his nerves for an instant, whose hands are actually palsied by any attempt at the continuance of their exertion. It is true, that in the deliberate pursuit, your shot is likely to be very decisive; but you will also recollect, that the least deviation by the bird from the line assumed, will

utterly unhinge your sight. The twinkle of a snipe, or the true game-dip of an old grouse cock, as though conscious of the meditated shot, will at any time send off a blindly squandered charge some yards wide of all chance to touch him. It is highly expedient, however, that a man should have both of these shots at his command, in order that, under the infinite variations of the line of flight, he may be prepared to apply some modification of either, as the occasion calls for. For which reason, after having made yourself master of the present, you may practise the horizontal and diagonal sweeps along chalk lines, drawn upon the wall at pleasure. I must require this to be done upon a line actually drawn, in order that you may perceive how far you are capable of retaining hold of it, with or without the fall of the cock of your piece. When the diagonal flight turns into the curve, you will here discover the difficulty, or rather impossibility, of retaining it by the deliberate following sweep of your barrel; which with perfect accuracy can not be done, except in a right line. In this case, therefore, the shot made by contact of the line of sight with that of the flight, at killing distance, is more to be depended on. And, inasmuch as the diagonal flights, some portion of which even your apparently direct shots will

run into, if geometrically measured with regard to the position of your eye, would partake of that curve, I have given a preference to this measured shot by contact of the lines, rather than that of deliberate pursuit; in which preference, without thus ascertaining the reasons, I believe that the generality of professors do practically agree with me. In my order for your general attitude of “taking form upon the present,” I have given nearly that which convenience has established in general practice; *viz.* with the poise of the body thrown forward almost entirely upon the left leg. In the course of my observation made on that practice, I have had occasion to perceive, that the position is frequently taken, with the left foot at a considerable angle inwards, evincing that the limb has never had its action cultivated under the eye of a dancing master. But it has far worse faults than the leaving a man open to such a discovery; for, throw the poise of your body upon that limb, and you will perceive, with your toe inwards, if the bird take flight to the left, that you are immediately tottering in your attempt to follow it with the present; and it is for this reason, that the forward direction of the left foot has been insisted on; whilst, for the similar convenience of pursuing a flight to the right hand, the rectangular position of the right foot

is indicated; otherwise a similar totter will occur. The latter shot is indeed always the most difficult; and to a man standing, or rather stuck fast, upon untutored legs, generally impracticable: but if you acquire a habit of making a shot to the left, or ahead, with the body thrown upon the left limb, and a shot to the right, with its poise kept back upon the right limb, you will almost entirely overcome this difficulty. You may recollect that I very early placed, and left you for some time standing, to find out "the balance of your position." It is of importance that a man should find out this balance of himself upon his lower limbs, with an easy command of transition into a support on either; somewhat in the way which has been found expedient in the use of the small sword; to which attitude, so far as these limbs are concerned only with the exchange of sides in advance, the position I threw you into, in taking form, is not without its resemblance: and I confess I should have no objection, that my pupil in the field should have previously found the use of his limbs under the discipline of a fencing school. It is an observation of the celebrated Mareschal Saxe, "that the legs of a soldier are of infinitely more importance than his arms." I am not competent to decide upon

all the justice of this remark, as applied to the evolutions of an army ; but I am convinced that it will, for another reason, apply most forcibly to the business on which I am here treating. I am persuaded that, to a sportsman, his legs are of more use than he is perhaps aware of ; and that upon the position which he takes upon them depends very much of the accuracy of his shot. Accustom yourself, therefore, in this position*, to take the sweep of present each way boldly. To the left will bring your body entirely with its poise upon the left limb, with a deeper bend of the knee, until the right limb is nearly at full extent, and you are steadied only by a balancing rest upon the ball of the right toe : then back again, sweeping to the right, the poise of your body retreating till it come wholly upon the right limb ; and the other, in its turn, becomes extended, with a corresponding balance to the body supplied by the left toe. Between the two positions is comprised a full half-circle or more, without a shift of the foot ; which, from the moment of taking form, on no account can I admit. If you attempt it for the sake of a second sight, or

* I must request a reference to this position, as explicitly described under the head of "Take form !" p. 170.

change of bird in another direction*, it is ten to one that you never get it, to any good purpose at least; and not much less than an even wager, if your station be on rough ground, that you make a tumble.

Let me here be permitted to revert, with a moment's application to yourself. You will by this time have perceived, that by the extended position of your lower limbs in "taking form," and the further advancing of the left side of the body, as you throw the but from you at the word "Mark!" the right shoulder is kept so relatively back, that although your but be somewhat of the longest, it must of necessity come to sight, without the possibility of a touch upon the shoulder. In fact, it comes up to level, by the turn of the but upon the fore-finger of the right hand as the centre of motion†, some inches ahead; and is to be brought home with a smart action backwards, and imbedded in its place. I leave you now to compare with this the effects of the hen-roost-robbing attitude, which I have

* It is this stumbling shift of the foot, with the eye already fixed upon the mark, which contributes more than the increase of distance, to make the second shot from a double-gun so ineffective.

† I refer to this action as particularly shown under the head of PRESENT! *Drill Exercise*, p. 185.

pre-supposed ; where, with little or no extent of the lower limbs, the body is of necessity thrown too forward, and by the prepared poke of your muzzle, the but is brought up creepingly, and perhaps timidly, to shoulder ; so that the slightest rub against the inside of the arm, or a little tip of the shoulder-joint, will utterly disturb and puzzle the business of level, if it should not actually, as in the case assumed, occasion a premature fire. I have deemed it proper to separate the two motions of *mark* and *present*, in order that the extension of the arms indicated by the first, and the sweep of the but inwards by the latter towards the shoulder, may be distinctly and articulately performed, for the purpose of attaining that perfect command of hand, without which no man will ever shoot well. In the field, however, the latter motion will succeed the former, with scarcely the pause of an instant between them ; with none, indeed, beyond the firm feeling by the thumb that you have cocked your piece. You will observe, that I do not permit you to cock until the game is actually on wing. Sir, it is not solely for the sake of security that I forbid it, but because the very action of extending the arms under the word “Mark !” will make you cooler and more determined upon level : it will prevent the marring of your shot, by the fluc-

tuations of resolve inseparable from a state of suspense. From the time of the first spring till the bird arrives at killing distance, a man wants employment; and, as in other cases of the same irksome situation, he very often sets on to do mischief. You must certainly not go to sleep; but you must restrain impetuosity. I can not allow quite enough to smoke a pipe in; but if you are clever, you may almost contrive to catch a pinch of snuff. In short, Sir, calculating time by any means adapted to the rate at which the animal spirits are moving, from the instant a bird rises, its amount will be considerable: and to gain as much of this upon yourself as you can, in order to separate these motions, and prevent their interrupting each other at this important moment, is one of the leading principles of our art. I do not pretend to say, that I have on all occasions kept the cock of my gun down under this perfection of restraint: but, Sir, I am delivering institutes; and must not be interrupted by the challenge of some casual deviation, which may arise from existing circumstances. This however I will say, from perfect recollection, that the best shots I have ever made in my life, have been when, from a state of previous control under the thumb at half bent, the cock has been raised only as the bird was ascending to mark: and

appealing once more to the above rate of calculating time from the instant of spring, there is more than enough, in the most rapid snapshot that ever was made, for a well-practised hand to bring up the cock of his piece where he wants it: and if a man is so much fluttered as to risk remaining half-cocked upon the present, unless he *sees* that he is cocked beforehand, I can only say, he must utterly conquer this flutter before he will be a shot; and I will make him do so before I have done with him.

I have been led away by this explanatory comment upon the drill, into some part of its application in the field. I must now revert to it, in order to exemplify a variation of practice in the business of coming to an instant present; which may be of great utility for acquiring the power of a decisive snap-shot, and which is of immediate importance in the more confined service of shooting in cover: but previous to which, a perfect command of hand, by a clear separation of the second and third motion, and of coming up decisively to mark, must be attained.

The second motion, at* “Make ready! or

* See *Drill Exercise*, p. 184.

Mark!" attended as it is by "taking form," is best calculated to give to the arms the necessary freedom of action: and as, with the poise of your body thus thrown on your left limb, nine in ten of your shots will in general be taken, I do not choose to interrupt its perfect attainment by diverting your attention, at the time, to a different mode of coming somewhat more instantly from the "Carry arms!" to the "Present!" But it was not without a view to the manifest superior convenience of instant shift into this action, so necessary to be attained, that I have prescribed the mode of carrying arms to be an inversion of the usual one: and whatever may be otherwise derived from it, the advantages arising from its adoption will be still more conspicuous here. I revert to the drill, at the motion of "Carry arms!" and beg to refer to the recapitulated directions for its performance*, in order to explain our new-intended manœuvre. "In the attitude of an easy walk, your gun imbedded between the inside of your left arm and your side; your hand considerably below the chest, with a partial support upon the hip." Now, "without altering the grasp of your left hand, bring your gun across towards the right, raising the stock upwards a little,

* See *Drill Exercise*, p. 177.

until a line drawn along the lower edge of the but, as it is now borne upward, would be nearly horizontal*: insert the fore-finger of your right hand over the trigger; your thumb at the same time on guard over the half-cock, and the fingers holding the gripe: the gun, thus clasped by both hands, to be borne close to the body." I can not admit them to be thrown off, and swinging about with the awkward scramble of a young skater: the step is rendered less steady by the same means, and I have here an instant call for firmness. I have said, therefore, "close to the body; the cock still turned downwards, and the knuckle of the thumb on guard over it, resting against you a little below the navel." This represents *a secure attitude for march through cover*, with a sufficient preparation for an instant spring. I took occasion, under the head of "carrying arms" (p. 179, 180), to call your attention to the greater security which the

* In the order for "Carry arms!" p. 177, I have directed the clasp with the left hand to be made with the thumb *upon the guard*. It was purposely to have room for the commodious introduction of the fore-finger of the right hand into its place within the guard, over the trigger, during this secured carriage of arms in cover: for it will be observed, "in the more familiar clasp for general carriage, the left thumb will find its way a little *beyond the guard*;" in which case the trigger-finger would have been obstructed by the knuckle of the left thumb, and which, with a view to this action, it became necessary to remove.

inverted bearing of the barrel upon your left arm, affords against danger from any accidental discharge: and it is in our present situation, as working our way through cover, that I must again more pointedly renew my call on you to observe, with a confirmed habit of this locked hold of the gun with both hands, and their instinctive projection together (for you can not readily disentangle them), in case of a trip or a fall, how perfectly harmless over the shoulder backwards, or high in air, the charge would pass off. Nor can I resist once more pointing your attention to the disciplined security with which you would, in your present attitude, present yourself to a companion prepared to enter a cover along with him, compared with the awful threatenings from the slovenly cross-line carriage of a gun borne in the usual way, with its barrel upwards (see p. 176), and the additional awkwardness with which you shall see the untutored bearer, upon ground like this, during every expectation or chance of spring, with his right hand cramped up on duty, in order to be in readiness for the shot, and struggling to maintain in such position (we are obliged even for the attempt) a slippery hold over the cock, doubtless on full bent, and ready with the first stumble to clear away a charming avenue through the bushes which intercept all

direct view of a friend ranging to the left. But to return to our immediate business, an exemplification of the snap-shot. Mark! it is the summons of your attention to a cock just up. Which ever way the flight be directed, for the shot now intended, the readiest mode of taking form will be by a step-back with the right leg." When we were before on drill, in the action of "taking form," with a view to general shot by a step-out with the left leg, I conceived that it would be pure trifling to observe, that a step-back with the right was equivalent; and because your choice of the two must very much depend on the ground you have to stand upon. But here, where the quick transition into an instant present can not so well be done otherwise, it becomes necessary to enter into some varied explanation. Generally speaking, therefore, for a rapid shot, recourse must be had to a step-back with the right leg. "In the act of stepping back, the barrel, thrown from your left arm, must be swung forward, whilst the left hand, quitting its grasp below, is ready to receive the stock the other way at the accustomed place, where it has learned to stop in time, a little ahead of the poise. It is during this swing forward of the barrel, which must be done with somewhat of force, and aided at the same time by a little sweep of the whole

body inwards upon the left leg, as the centre of motion, that the weight of the whole gun forward being felt by the thumb of the right hand on the half-cock, brings it up to cock; the continuance of the impulse given to the swing of the barrel forwards, contributing to bring down your gun to a position at this instant (and it must only be an instant, so as to be sure you are cocked) resembling in good measure that in which a soldier would present his pike*: the knees sunk on the spring-bend; body considerably inclined forwards, on balance between them, but with its principal rest on the right limb." I bring it back thus rather from the left, because in the undecided flight of a bird in cover, it is a position which admits of more flexibility either way, at the last moment of present, as it may be wanted. I offer this as an attitude in which you are most decidedly prepared to meet, or into which you will instantly be thrown by any sudden notice of spring, or the first glance of unexpected flight. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the flight will be seized with eagerness; and if indistinctly seen through the trees, that its range will be as

* In this variation of coming to "the present," this may be considered as the ideal instant between this and the former motion of "Mark;" which for reasons alleged I have thought proper to separate.

eagerly measured by the eye towards the opening glade where you instantly expect a clearer view, as the point for its arrival at which you reserve your shot: at which selected instant the gun, with the butt thrown forward (remember that it be habitually forward enough to clear the shoulder*), must be brought up decidedly to the present; when, agreeably to the skill already acquired in the ready adjustment of the line of level with that of sight, in the course of previous exercise on drill, the fire will now be given with more or less effect.

In exhibiting the above shot, I have purposely followed a transition into it from the secured carriage of arms in cover, as being the situation where it will be more immediately called for. But it must be obvious to the practitioner, that this quicker, though more combined, action of coming to the present, is equally applicable to the more formal and more prepared hold of your gun, as given at "Handle arms! in the approach to point" (p. 180). It will of course, therefore, be adopted when the rapid shot is called for; remembering that the backward, or rather crab-like, step with the right leg, with a sink upon that limb, during which the gun is

* See the next note.

brought to the pike-attitude and cocked, is always the preparatory action for this shot*. To be perfect in this, it requires a man to be somewhat more of an adept than in the more deliberate level of the other practice; but under the variety of service which may be called for, a man who has any ambition to rank high in his profession, will assuredly make himself master of both.

In the fulness with which I have here endeavoured to treat this part of my subject, so immediately related to the breaking of cover, and which the reader will not fail to perceive that I have, in the disposition of his person, all along had in view, as essential to a complete command of his fowling-piece, I am not certain whether I may not have been led into somewhat of amplification. But the experienced sportsman can not fail to perceive my motive; and will not, I therefore trust, think his time ill

* In order to facilitate this motion, and to preclude a touch of the butt against the shoulder as the gun rises to sight, take care that in the swing of the gun to bring it down to the pike attitude, the butt be kept well down by the right arm, and thrown somewhat from you, so as to have a clear and uncontrolled sweep up again to the present. If you cramp your arm by an elevation of the elbow, so common in the action of unskilful cocking, it will, to certainty almost, make a stumble against your shoulder.

bestowed, in having gone along with me through several past pages ; which, although with some little repetitions, have been studiously employed in *reconciling the securest carriage of arms with the most determined rapidity of shot*. He will not be offended if I should once more awaken even him with a call for caution, where to expatiate on danger would be worse than absurdity. And if any fiery young gentleman, who with easy promptness has hitherto sought an association with me, but with blood as yet untamed by time, and making mock of fear, should feel himself prepared to spurn the studious guard which I have been endeavouring to impose upon his hands, before I permit him to enter cover, and dash on unrestrained, with slovenly and heedless carriage of his arms, momentarily threatening destruction to his dogs in every direction around him, I can only say that I beg to take my leave of him, and do most devoutly wish him and them all safe out again. I have seen too much service not to revolt at the name of coward ; but it is not every man that I would trust on the other side of a hedge with me : and by my troth, I must know a man well, before I would venture myself into a wood along with him.

In the course of the above commentary on the rules here laid down for acquiring a perfect command of arms, and for disposing the person of the shooter to advantage, I have on more than one occasion permitted myself to be led somewhat prematurely forward to an explanation of the rules, by exhibiting their direct application to the more intricate part of the business of the field. I say “prematurely,” as referable to a considerable portion of readers for whom I feel myself very much interested, but whom I can not consider as yet entirely prepared to follow me thither; and for whose immediate benefit, therefore, it now behoves me to return, for the purpose of assisting them in their regular progress upwards. With an immediate view then to a pupil of this class, I am to presume, that by a due attention to the business of the drill, and to the further disposition of his person in the above commentary, he has become sufficiently perfect at a present to a fixed mark, and in the steady sweep and fire upon a given line in any direction. It is time therefore to lead him forth to an actual practice of these rudiments; which will best be done in some situation where the swallow presents to him an infinite variety of flights; in pursuing which, his skill in the sweeps will be improved, a greater degree of flexibility obtained, and his

eye familiarised with the effect of a bird on wing. His fire for some time to be made with the wooden driver; then with flint fixed, and a charge of the pan only*; and lastly, with a due load. The moment of a swallow's hover at an insect may occasionally be selected for the practice of the rapid shot; while its steady horizontal sweeps afford the most exemplary means of becoming a master of the deliberate cross-shot. In the practice of the latter, he will acquire a judgment of the proper distance ahead of the bird, at which it may be necessary to direct his aim at the moment of fire, in order to make allowance for the further progress of the bird into the centre of the disk of the shot, during the advance of the latter to meet it. With some it is a practice to level at the eye: if the bird be very near, this may do; but at any distance it is by no means enough. When your shot has forty or fifty yards to travel, you may venture to take the bird's whole length, or more. Even the state of the air will make a material difference; and in damp weather, notwithstanding all the care you can take of the

* This flash of the pan should be practised upon drill, along a chalk line. A young recruit will perceive, even in this flash, that his nerves will find out a difference between it and the wooden driver; and it is in the drill that he must learn to conquer this difference, or he needs go no further.

priming, the progress of the train through the touchhole will be often considerably retarded; and your allowance for this distance should consequently be increased. When the wind blows hard also, and the flight of your bird happens to be directly against it, the curvature of the line made by your charge, before it reaches a long shot, will be more than you are aware of: a foot or two will not be more than enough, at such time, for this allowance*. In short, it is a thing which varies so much under different circumstances, that no absolute rule can be given for it; but it must rest with the judgment of the practitioner. For his regulation, however, it may be noted, that an ample allowance is on the safer side of error: for your gun may hang fire a little; and you will recollect that a single shot through the head will bring down your bird, when a dozen at the other end will produce you no more than a tail-feather.

Again I perceive that I am getting on too fast. In all regular education, it is by due submission to progressive lessons of improvement that a pupil, such as I have now to consider before me, is to be led on towards perfection.

* In a windy day I should recommend the use of heavier shot; their relative power in overcoming this impediment being considerably greater.

In justice therefore to him, I must "try back" a little, in order to make good the ground as we go along. We are got into the very midst of game; and I can not as yet admit my young friend to the full honours of the field. I can not trust to his measure of a cock-pheasant's tail, by his yet imperfect knowledge of angles; nor to the nicer skill of adjusting, at a given distance, the coincidence of two moving lines. I must beg, therefore, as yet, a little while, to take him back to his rudiments among the swallows. When he shall here have acquired, with unshaken eye, a firm hold of the flight, after the snap of the cock with a driver in, or without a deviation of more than a few inches from the mark, he may then, but not till then, permit himself to mount his flint and load. I would observe, that in order to remove all apprehension of recoil, which at the instant of pull upon the trigger is so liable to disturb, by a kind of instinctive re-action of the shoulder, the level of a young beginner, and which I am afraid continues its influence with the best of us longer than it ought to do (of this, on the first occasion of firing a strange gun, I apprehend that any man will feel himself convinced), the charge should be kept down in quantity to the amount of about three-fourths at most. Where you can take, as here, the

distance of your object at pleasure, this will be quite enough; and when the nerves of the pupil are become thoroughly familiarized and at ease with this, they may be further wound up to *stand fire*; which it is of the last importance to have effected without the sympathetic communication of motion to any other part of the system, except the muscles connected with the trigger-finger; no, not even to the harmless twinkling of an eyelid, under a full field-load.

It ought perhaps in a more early part of these pages to have been mentioned, but arrived as we are at the actual shot, I must no longer omit to say, that as I have heretofore taken the mechanical disposition of the whole body under my direction, some attention becomes due to the management of the eye itself. Our awkward acquaintance from the plough's tail screws up the features of one side of his face into painful deformity, in order to keep his left eye closely shut, and almost dislocates his neck in bringing down the other to a side-long level at the old crow before him: but the sportsman, the true position of whose head is to be upright and at ease, and who by the methods already taught, and an adapted bend of his stock, is to bring the barrel to his eye, and not to risk a crick in the neck by squeezing down his eye to the

barrel*, should by all means acquire the habit of taking aim, like the skilful manager of a telescope, with both eyes open, and with no further alteration of the features of the face than that contraction of the eyebrow which assists intensity of sight. A little practice will render this quite easy: and the left eye will thus become of more immediate use to mark, on the instant, the struck or not-struck of a bird in cover, and to spare the half-blind bungler, after a squint-eyed shot across a hedge, some loss of time in the moping search of nothing.

I need not, I am persuaded, be at the expense of argument to convince a pupil, that unless the internal alarm on fire, and the apprehension of recoil be sufficiently subdued to admit of his keeping a tolerable hold of the flight, during the prolongation of a moment at the instant of pull upon the trigger, his shot must become a mere casualty; and how much it behoves him, therefore, to acquire a command over himself at this important moment. The obvious method of accomplishing this, by an emboldened familiarity with the action of his gun, from the snap with a driver up to effective shot, is here indicated. Suffice it to add the means by which

* See the chapter on Stocking.

a man may put his own ability to the test in this respect. The fall of a swallow now and then is no direct proof. I would suggest a method, by which he shall be enabled to make a juster estimate of himself, as well as to cultivate a steadiness of level to the extreme of perfection; *i.e.* when loaded, shake out the priming, all but the few grains that usually adhere about the touchhole, or let the priming be so little as to make it more than an even chance against a fire; and in this state let him renew his levels at the swallows, under the contingent uncertainty of shot. The repetition of miss-fire, by showing how far he can or can not keep hold of the flight after the fall of the cock, will inform him how far he is under the dominion of impressions which, if he ever mean to arrive at excellence, must be effectually subdued*:

* This test may also be successfully applied to reclaim a man from the vicious hurried habit of withdrawing level before the charge is well out of the barrel. I put this piece of instruction into the form of a note, on purpose to render it of more conspicuous use. It is not merely from the utter defeat of the shot, which the least hang-fire will to a certainty occasion, if a man do not acquire a habit of prolonging level, but from the more serious mischief which may be the consequence of a burnt priming. The probable tearing of your fingers by the guard, from an explosion after the butt has quitted your shoulder, is no adequate punishment for this undisciplined handling. I have more than once seen a

and the occasional fires, by furnishing the means of comparing what is passing within his breast in the two relative situations, will teach him the necessity of winding up the pegs of his interior into a most unmoved indifference under either. It is only upon the occasion of a miss-fire in the field, that a man can be satisfied of his having completely covered his bird at the moment of intended shot: by appealing to which occasions, and the then conviction of what was the state of our level at the time, I do apprehend that all of us have had reason to conclude how very much, upon other occasions, we have owed to accident. Be that as it may: I would use this conviction for the purpose of establishing upon my pupil a more corrected and a steadier level. At a moment when I am on the point of introducing him to his game, I must con-

gun, after a flash in the pan, suddenly brought down to hip, and then ploughing up the ground at some ten yards distance; not without a chance, I confess, of securing a tail-bird of the covey not yet risen, but with a much greater chance of executing somewhat severe justice upon poor Ponto, for having broke forward without orders, in hopes of a find-dead. In moist weather, in spite of every care, the train through the touchhole will be liable to linger, like the fuse of a rocket. In every case of burnt priming, therefore, let your nerves take the alarm; keep hold of the flight if you can: you have a chance, though but a bad one.

sider him as no longer in a condition of being indebted for his triumphs to the contingencies of accident.

After having submitted himself to this test, which I would offer as the *experimentum crucis* of death-doing level, and having acquired an unaltered hold of the flight, or at least some degree of approximation towards it, under the pull of the trigger, I certainly have nothing more to require from him, so far at least as respects the knowledge and command of his weapon; and it remains for me only to introduce him to the knowledge and command of himself. In the mean time, I must not omit to congratulate him on his admission as a candidate for the honours of the field: as a preliminary to which, however, and I hope he will not think me hard with him, I expect, under the full permission of selected shots at swallows, a production of one in three, as a certificate of his ability.

We are now arrived at a point, when I am afraid I shall have some difficulty with my pupil, in keeping the necessary check-rein upon his impetuosity. Elated as he feels himself, and big with imaginary triumphs, he will be very

apt to break away from me among the coveys, before he has permitted me to do my duty to him. The fitful fever of getting on too fast is a disease which all young sportsmen are very liable to be infected with ; and I wish it were in my power to convince them how very much it impedes their progress. *Festina lentè*, my good fellows, be the motto of every individual among you, who is eager to arrive at early excellence : in the sincere endeavour to enable him to do which, I must request an immediate dismissal of the game-bag, together with its counter-balance of shot-belt, and other accoutrements ; with which a pardonable vanity, and a too extravagant estimate of his own powers, may have induced him prematurely to equip himself for the field. It will be quite soon enough for him to assume the full dress of our order, when he shall have learned *to face his game* : a phrase of somewhat more awful import than he is at present, perhaps, quite aware of ; and for the accomplishing of which, I have yet to make no inconsiderable call upon his patience and resolution. I know no one case, indeed, within the whole scheme of moral practice, where the *plus facit qui se ipsum vincit* of antiquity so well applies, as in the business immediately before us.

The uninspired reader, who has not been smitten with the sport, and whose bosom hath never thrilled in sympathy with his dog, at the challenge of *to ho!* may smile at my starting the question,—whether to an eager youth just fleshed on game, to retain the power of getting up with any tolerable decency to a point; to keep his mouth shut under the rattle of a rising covey; and to remain, as in duty bound, fixed to the spot, when the first bird falls to his gun, be not a greater trial of nerve, than the awful moment which precedes a first advance to charge under the roar of a battery? But I am perfectly serious in saying, that it is a situation in which a man will sooner lose possession of himself. “Fleas are not lobsters,” as the poet saith; neither are swallows snipes: and in exact proportion as a man shall feel the ferment of a sportsman’s blood within his veins, in such proportion will he be liable to have himself scared by the whirring of a partridge out of his five wits. Let not my young friend, however, be dismayed by these early stumbles of his ambition; even if, in the first instance, he should have caught himself banging off the contents of his barrel before the birds have measured a dozen times its length in distance from him, and with his eyes in such a quiver as to produce

the effect of an optician's toy, by multiplying five brace into fifty; or what is more commonly the case, if totally convulsed by the first spring, and distracted by their fluttering off in every direction, he should find himself petrified out of all power to raise up his gun at them, until the tardy recoil of recollection at length hurries off the charge without a chance of overtaking them, and with no other possible effect than that of rousing him from his hysterical reverie, to shake his ears into the conviction, that much yet remains to be done with himself, before he is fit to appear in the ranks on a field-day, or even before he can march up to his dog alone, without having to blush for his want of manhood.

I have already touched upon this subject, where, for the benefit of a defective shooter already familiarized with his object, I have given the outline of a corrected "advance to point" (see p. 168): but with my junior friends immediately in view, it will be necessary for me here to enter somewhat more closely into particulars. I can not have a doubt that these gentlemen, in their eagerness to get on, may have occasionally felt a little uneasy under the restraints which I have thought proper to put upon them: but I

am willing to flatter myself, that on the whole, we have hitherto gone pretty well on together: and although, for their sakes, it is my ardent wish, that we should continue to jog on in tolerable harmony to the end of our journey, now at no great distance, I can not help expressing my apprehensions, that in my proceeding to insist upon a point, although of the last importance to enable them to gain the necessary conquest over themselves, they will be tempted to break all terms with me, and to bolt out of the course when just within sight of the winning-post. It will, I believe, be found no unusual practice with writers on the subject of ethics, upon occasions where they have to broach any favourite doctrine, which to a first view may have something of the paradox about it, and more especially, as in the present instance, where that doctrine runs counter to the pride of man, to beat about the bush for its introduction under the cover of authorities: and as I am most unwilling, even in the attempt to do them the most essential service, to quarrel with these young friends of mine, I shall profit by the example of my brother moralists, and take the convenience of sheltering myself under the sanction of authority, upon the present occasion. In that part of the *Kunopædia*, where

an explanation is given of the diagram on quartering, I have sought the opportunity of making an acknowledgment, which I conceived to be due to an author, from whom my first hints for a rational management of the dog had been originally derived. Amongst a variety of collateral matter, he does not forget to take the young shooter himself under his correction. It is from the two last pages of this little volume that I present the following extract. The reader will not fail to be amused with the manner; and I wish him to believe, that for the matter it is still more deserving his attention, from the valuable truths which lie folded up within it.

“ That an over-desire to kill is the very means to prevent it, experience laments, but can not, in the common method, correct it. A man readily admits the improbability, but fondly insists on possibility; and so fires away in hopes. Let the young sportsman, therefore, set forth with every appendage but (what he thinks hard should be left behind) *powder* and *shot*: a stiff piece of sole-leather may represent the flint, to spare the face of the hammer. When a bird gets up, he is certain he can not kill it; therefore he can wait to any length, until he gets it at the end of his gun: he must

never draw, unless positive of seeing the bird in that very point of situation. Let it go: every fresh spring of a bird will make him more composed; and as the tremor wears off, he will grow more uniform in his manner of getting to it, until at last he will cover it almost to a certainty, at or very near the same distance. Let him accustom himself also never to take his gun from his arm, until the bird is on wing; and never to vary his eye from the very one he first fixed upon. Three words should mentally be used, with a pause between, before he puts his piece to shoulder: this will keep him, as it were, in awe of himself; and as there is no charm in any particular combination of letters, Hold! halt! now! may serve as well as any. A day thus spent, he may put some powder into the pan, and flash away in that manner the next; pursuing the former directions, until he can stare with steadfastness, and pull without a wink. The day following, load with powder only; and continue this lesson, more or less, until he is calm, as if the leather were yet in the chaps. Now the grand and last trial, complete loading. If he feels the least flutter or anxiety on his advance to the point, let him draw his shot at once, nay, powder also, before he goes up to his dog; and repeat this, *toties quoties*, until he

has whipped himself into good temper, and disappointed himself into the accomplishment of his wishes."

After having thus put forth my hand to assist my younger friends, who are so much in want of a little assistance, and having, as I conceive, fulfilled my duty to them, by putting them in the way of doing ample justice to themselves, it is time, that in drawing towards a conclusion, I should return to the individual, whom in the midst of matter of more general application, I may have appeared to lose sight of, but for whose immediate benefit my thoughts were originally put in requisition: and as I have yet somewhat of moment to say to him before I finally quit my subject, it is with pleasure that I feel myself at liberty to resume my former familiarity of address, for the purpose of its communication. I must beg of you, my dear Sir, not to be alarmed at my approach. Be not afraid: I am not going to order you back through all this preparatory discipline, which with the gentlemen of whom I have just taken leave, I consider as indispensable. It can do you no harm, however, to give it a reading; and if peradventure there should arise any doubts in your mind, of and concerning the stanchness

of your nerves, or any suspicions of their blinking under the pull of the trigger, I must require of you an ingenuous submission of yourself to the test above offered, in order to be satisfied how far you are able to stand fire, or otherwise; and to seek an immediate correction, if necessary, by the means there indicated. At any rate, you may be assured, I shall not impose on you the mortification of taking the field in that state of negative equipment, in which the judicious author above quoted sends his pupil forth among the coveys, not much in humour perhaps, but in the high road to improvement. With the spring of the game I certainly can not but suppose you too familiar, to retain any portion of that flutter, which would best be conquered thus. It is for these reasons, that I am not going to put you upon plodding your way upwards again through this business of the lower classes; and for another, almost equally strong, you have not the time to spare: from you my rules must receive all their exemplification upon actual service. So much the stronger, therefore, is the necessity for my saying to you, as I should to a pupil of some proficiency, but who feels a dissatisfaction at the uncertainty and indecision of his shot, that *I can not abate you one tittle of the drill: it is*

there only that this uncertainty can be corrected. I look upon your errors as having their immediate, if not their only, foundation in some habitually unskilful management of your piece and of your person; and it is in the drill alone that you can hope to amend this, and to work out your own reformation. It is not with a bird on wing, that the mind is altogether at leisure for the study of personal adjustments. Let your gun stand by you in the corner, or hang it up within your constant reach; its flint supplanted by a wooden driver, to save the hammer; and give yourself a lesson three or four times a day, in the intervals of better occupation. It is not the length of the lesson which is the object; three or four minutes at a time will be quite sufficient: it is by the frequent repetition, that an improved method of handling must be wrought into a habit. Here take the alternate sweeps, and practise the diagonal, in every direction; never omitting to "take form," and to feel yourself "in balance," as directed: here let the two methods of coming to the present be learned, until the advancing and retreating step adapted to each, become instinctive impulse. Lay aside the gun for weeks, and again resume it: you will find it coming better to shoulder. Repeat this until at length it gets

completely fitted, and your eye, in perfect combination, seizes its object with instant and decided confidence. Let your now emancipated limbs find an amusement in this exercise: and hark ye, too! do not you trouble your head with my friend Mrs. *****'s very possible inclination to scoff at all this, and to point the moving finger of her scorn at this "second edition," as she with most irreverent mockery may be prompted to call it, "of uncle Toby's crutch upon Trim's shoulder." Go on! If you are in dread of being knocked down with it at your own fire-side, make good your retreat into the garden, and intrench yourself: only go on, and I will venture to prophesy to you, and promise to her, on the faith of whatever claim I at present hold on her opinion (a pledge, as I conceive, of no small amount), that you will, both of you, find a wonderful difference during the next season, in the produce of this winter-crop, that is to be, of instruction; the seeds of which I am now studiously scattering.

Having thus put you upon your guard against interruptions, it only remains for me, with a view to the more public destination of these

sheets, and to the support of a system which it has been my endeavour to render as complete as possible, to be prepared with some defence against attacks of a less good-natured complexion, which my endeavour to enforce attention to this domestic practice of the drill may very possibly give rise to; and to repel by anticipation the sneer which may be likely enough to come from a class of men, who by a slavery of ten or twenty years, are become sufficient adepts in the art; but who having been brought up under their dogs, have no more conception than their tutors, that a qualification for professional rank can be otherwise obtained; and who, with a rudeness which they have also brought from the kennel, may be prompted to laugh at all this fire-side foolery, and to ridicule the idea of a man's working himself into a shot by rule. To these gentry I have only to say, that I am not disputing their talents; but I demur to their capacity of making any estimate of mine. Half of them can barely read; and if the other half, from whom, on the score of education, one should expect somewhat better proof of the faculty of thinking, choose to arrange themselves on the side of self-taught ignorance, and to persist in pleading long prescription for the irregular, though frequently

successful, practice of the whole corps, in scorn of all attempt to send any of them back to the drudgery of the drill, for the correction of some habitual awkwardness, the unperceived source of occasional errors, which they are every now and then set a-swearing by, I will freely tell them, that they have my leave to blunder and blaspheme on to the end of the chapter, and that this book of mine was not written for them. They have been suffered to run lewd in their own way, out of all dread of the whip, during too many years, for me to undertake the worse than hopeless task of breaking them in at this time of day: I am not equal to it.

If, however, lowering a little the proud pretensions of their unexamined practice, under some conscious recoil of their own errors, they should be disposed to approach, and to talk a little civilly with me, I beg to assure them, that they will find me more than ready to allow all they have to say in favour of the real shot, the thing itself. To keep down the flutter of expectation, to conquer the alarm on spring, and to be familiar with the differing flights of the different species of game, itself a circumstance of no inconsiderable importance, must be the result of a continued actual service only: it can not

be inculcated. But every thing which has a tendency to produce a precision of shot, all the nicer dexterities of the art, may equally well, and in one-tenth part of the time, be acquired by a studious appeal to principle at home, in the regular course of education prescribed, as by the chance of its being picked up in the field, and imprinted, a man hardly knows how, upon his practice, during a random course of years of ordinary service. A man will not gallop up to a pack of foxhounds the worse, if he has previously acquired a seat, and the means of managing to advantage the noble animal he bestrides, at a riding-school: and he who will take the trouble of finding out why he has done a thing well hitherto, will to a certainty find the means of doing it better hereafter.

A due consideration of this will, I flatter myself, reconcile to me this class of men; for whom, as brothers in arms, I entertain great good-will, and with whom I have therefore been endeavouring to reason a little. I can not but respect their attainments; and I am willing to admit them as the P. A.'s, or *Practical Adepts*, and to hold a kind of exotic rank as *Licentiates*, of the profession; who having already taken their degrees, like some licentiates of a

much graver order of men, in but a dubious kind of way, I can readily pardon their being somewhat jealous, and consequently a little petulant, on the subject of their pretensions: but I never can allow them, upon the ground of some doubtful exhibition of skill, however occasionally brilliant, to supersede the legitimate claim of the more meritorious individuals, who by a scientific cultivation of themselves, shall seek to establish their practice upon the firmer foundation of principle; and for whom I consider the higher distinctions of our order as exclusively reserved. I feel myself more immediately called on to hold this language, as I finally return to my more manageable, but aspiring, friends; who, with the eager hope of more early attaining these distinctions, may have resolved on putting themselves under my direction; and to whom I am bound by inclination, as well as duty, to hold forth every encouragement. I applaud their zeal; and beg once more to assure them, that I have been doing my best to direct that zeal most effectually to its object. But they must ever bear in mind, that these honours will not be conferred without their going through the regular course of previous study: and much is to be done, from the time when a man commences with writing

B. i. e. *beginner*, or *bungler*, which you please at the end of his name, and many are the intermediate degrees that he must prove his claim to, before I can permit him to assume the distinguished title of S. S. S.*; which, for the benefit of those who have not had the advantage of a college education, I shall here translate by DEAD SHOT.

It is true, that small is the number of those to whom this highest of our academical honours can be truly conceded. I am not saying this, to throw a damp over my pupil's hopes, or to lower the tone of his ambition. If a man would arrive at excellence, he must keep his eye upon perfection. It is therefore I have all along endeavoured to direct that ambition to this envied summit: but in doing this, I have not failed also to point out to him the steps by which he will assuredly make his way to it.

* The Knights of the Order of the Garter, at the time of their installation, are invested with what is termed their collar of S.'s; which they continue to wear upon all solemn occasions. I would submit to the learned reader, whether our order may not with more classical justice assert their exclusive claim to this collar, as the emphatic emblem of the titular dignity signified by these initials, *Societatis Scloppeticæ Socius*: an admitted *fellow*, with all the honours of the order.

Let not then the arduous height appal his resolution; let him keep a firm footing upon these steps, as he ascends, and I will then address him with the most unqualified confidence,

*“I, puer! i, pede fausto.
Grandia laturus meritorum præmia.”*

Which, for the sake of being better understood by every description of readers, may be paraphrased thus: “He will not fail to receive, in the increasing weight of his game-bag, a convincing proof of the truth of these precepts, and a reward of his own obedience.”

FINIS.

[The text on this page is extremely faint and illegible. It appears to be a single paragraph of handwritten or printed text, possibly in a historical or scientific context. The ink is very light, and the paper shows signs of aging and discoloration.]



